



**Parent-Student Handbook
2021-2022**

**DeSales Catholic
School**

**6914 Chestnut Ridge Road
Lockport, New York 14094
(716) 433-6422**

www.desalescatholicsschool.org

IMPORTANT:

Let it be known to all of our parents that we are a non-discriminatory school and that our school abides by the Buckley Amendment.

The DeSales Catholic School Parent-Student Handbook is intended to describe the philosophy, services and structure of the school's educational program to parents and students. The school administration reserves the right to make changes and/or additions to this handbook without prior notice. The school administration is the final interpreter of the content of this handbook.

All parents and students must sign this page, tear it out, and return it to the school office at the start of the School Year.

**DeSALES CATHOLIC SCHOOL
6914 CHESTNUT RIDGE ROAD
LOCKPORT, NY 14094**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF 2021-2022 PARENT-STUDENT HAND BOOK

I hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the DeSales Catholic School Parent-Student Handbook. I also understand that I am responsible for reading, understanding, and acting in accordance with the rules and regulations contained in the Parent-Student Handbook, and for keeping my Parent-Student Handbook current with any additions, deletions, or revisions that may be issued to me. I will abide by the conditions that are set forth in all policies in this handbook. This document needs to be signed and returned to the Main Office by October 22, 2021.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Vision Statement

DeSales students will be well-equipped to successfully meet the challenges of modern day society with faith, dignity and integrity.

Mission Statement

DeSales Catholic School...

Is a center of excellence that inspires individual students to reach their greatest potential inside and outside the classroom.

Is a nurturing community dedicated to advancing the highest academic standards and an exceptional faith-based education rooted in the values of love, compassion, mercy, sacrifice and justice as taught by St. Francis deSales.

Provides students with the fundamental building blocks to be innovative, critical-thinkers, and responsible future leaders.

Revised May 2012

DeSales Catholic School
6914 Chestnut Ridge Road
Lockport, NY 14094

"The Start of Something Great"

Phone: 716-433-6422

Fax: 716-434-4002

Website: www.desalescatholicsschool.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

School Hours:

Grades K through 8:

Monday - Friday 8:20 am - 2:50 pm

Early Childhood Development Classes:

Tues. and Thurs. 8:30 am - 11:30 am (age 3 by 12/1)

Mon., Wed., Fri. 8:30 am - 11:30 am (age 4 by 12/1)

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Extended Preschool 8:30-2:30 (Age 4)
and (Combined Age 3 and 4)

Before School care provided by DeSales

After School care can be obtained through the YWCA of Lockport

GENERAL INFORMATION

DeSales Catholic School is a consolidated school system serving the City of Lockport and the surrounding area. The school utilizes one building. The Main Office in the school is where all business pertaining to the administration of the school is handled by the supervising principal and the assistant principal.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In 1970, the Bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo authorized the formation of the Lockport Catholic Education Council. The council was the governing body of the educational facilities housed in the Primary, Intermediate, and Middle school buildings; subject to the regulations of the Superintendent of Catholic Education of the Diocese of Buffalo. The council now is composed of the pastors, school parents and lay members from participating parishes. The function of the council is to set policy and formulate the school budget. The Lockport Education Council was given the name of DeSales Catholic Education Council in 1994 when the three buildings moved to their new location at 6914 Chestnut Ridge Road. In 2009, the Education Council name was officially changed to DeSales Catholic School Board of Trustees, per the Diocese of Buffalo.

Copies of the DeSales Catholic School Board of Trustees policy are available for review in the Main Office or online at www.DeSalesCatholicSchool.org.

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

DeSales Catholic School has an active Home School Association. Parents are encouraged to lend their talents and participate with teachers and students in events such as field trips, teacher appreciation events, social events, fundraisers, family Masses, the lunch program and other special activities.

The main objectives of the organization are to:

- Organize and support fundraisers and educational and social programs for the DeSales family
- Promote communication and cooperation between home and school
- Promote an opportunity for continued development of the school as we strive for higher standards
- Create a greater appreciation of Catholic Education
- Provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to meet and interact with each other

Home School Association meetings are once a month and are open to all parents, faculty and staff. In addition, the Home School Association publishes monthly meeting minutes on the school website to keep everyone apprised of current events.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

ADMISSION

Registration for the following school year will begin in January with registration open to those students who have already been enrolled in the previous school year and to their siblings. Open enrollment for new families is held throughout the year, based on the discretion of the principal. An Open House will be held each January/February, in order to introduce new families to the school. Information concerning this Open House will be published in the church bulletins and in the local newspaper.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

1. To enter Kindergarten, the student must be age five by Dec. 1 of the present year.
2. Upon registration, a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, a copy of the social security card, complete educational records, including testing and a record of immunization must be presented to the school. All acceptances are provisional until all records are received, and it has been determined that DeSales Catholic School can serve a student's particular needs, especially if a student is in need of special education services.
3. Verification of registration and participation at one of the Catholic parishes will be required through submission of the Parish Tuition Assistance Form in order to qualify for the annual parish tuition assistance.
4. A Registration fee of \$100.00 per student and a New Family fee of \$100.00 are required to confirm registration for the following school year.
5. As a school policy, please note that new students entering grade 8 will be accepted at the discretion of the principal.
6. **New students will be accepted on a probationary basis for a 30 day period. If during that time the student does not experience academic success or their behavior is unacceptable, that student may be forced to transfer.**

ATTENDANCE

Good daily attendance is one key to academic success for your student. If your student is going to be absent from school, please notify the school nurse by calling (716) 434-4680 by 9:00AM. Good attendance has a direct impact on learning, and as teachers, we know that it is impossible to "catch up" a student on six hours of instruction when he/she is absent from school.

The New York State Board of Regents has required all schools to be in compliance with an attendance policy. The purpose of regulating attendance across the state is to raise student achievement to higher levels based on New York State standards, to close the gap in student performance based on poverty, race and location of residence and to uphold the mission statement of each school.

ABSENCES

Unexcused absences will include:

- unlawful detention
- truancy
- suspension
- vacations

Students who miss 30 days of school, either excused or unexcused, and whose parents have not met periodically with the school administration may be in jeopardy of retention or involuntary transfer. In a conference with the administration and teachers, alternative educational plans need to be determined. It is the parents' responsibility to notify the administration of an attendance concern and to request such a conference.

A written excuse must be completed by the parent giving specific reasons for the absence/tardiness within a 3-day period. If an excuse is not received within the 3 days, the absence is recorded as unexcused.

A student who is absent more than ½ of the school day due to illness or unexcused absence may not participate in after school activities including play practice or athletics.

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM

DeSales Catholic School offers Before School Care from 6:45-8:00 am. Fees are determined by DeSales and registration forms are available in the Main Office.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The After School Program is available for all students in grades Pre-K-8. This program is run under the direction of the YWCA of Lockport. It begins on the first day of school and ends on the last day of the school year. Care is provided from 2:50 PM until 5:45PM. Fees are determined by the YWCA, and registration for the program should be done by contacting the YWCA.

ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

No child should arrive at school before 8:00 AM unless:

- the child is a part of the DeSales Before School Program
- a teacher is working with a student
- the child rides a bus that arrives before 8am

DAILY SCHEDULE

K- 8 Students are expected to be in their homerooms at 8:15 AM and will be counted tardy after 8:20AM. The end of the school day is at 2:50 PM.

LEAVING SCHOOL

If, for any reason, a student must leave early, the student must provide a note from parents stating the reason and the time the student is to be excused. It is also helpful if parents would indicate whether or not the student will be returning to school on that day. Students are not permitted to sign themselves out of school. If you make a change of plans for your child to leave school during the

day or at the end of the day, please notify the school office by 12:00 PM by fax or email so that we may notify your child's teacher of the change. Students planning to go home with another student need to have a signed note by their parent indicating the house to which their child is going.

Due to the current Pandemic, do not send a note with your child. Please email the change in dismissal plan to Mrs. Granchelli and Mrs. Surdel along with the child's teacher. When you arrive at school, please call the Main office and we will bring your child to your car parked on Ambleside drive.

LEAVING SCHOOL WITHOUT PERMISSION

No student is allowed to leave the school grounds for any reason without the permission of the Principal or Assistant Principal. This includes the time immediately after being dropped off by the bus or before the bus pick-up in the afternoon.

TARDINESS

Promptness to school is a very important habit to instill in your child from the earliest years since it is one of the lifetime values the student must hold later in life. Students in grades K-8 who arrive in homeroom after 8:20AM are considered tardy. Tardy students must sign in at the Main Office. A note from parents explaining the reason for tardiness must be sent to the school no later than the following day. Tardiness is entered on the student's permanent record and is included in recommendations. Students who exhibit excessive tardiness will correct this problem by attending after school detention.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM

Our school offers a hot lunch and breakfast program, which is part of the Federal School Lunch Program. Free, reduced and paid meals are offered, and those seeking a free or reduced price meal must fill out an application, which will be sent home on the first day of school.

Lunch menus are provided monthly, and lunches may be purchased on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. Milk and ice cream are also served daily. If a child forgets his/her lunch from home, a lunch will always be provided. Please call by 9:00 AM to notify the school office if we will need to provide your child with lunch for the day.

During the current Pandemic all students will receive a free lunch. No application required. If a student wishes to receive the free lunch they will have to order through the teacher in the morning.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

All students are required to have a Parent Substitute/Emergency form on file in the school office. This person will be called in the event of illness or injury if the parent cannot be reached and should have agreed in advance to assume this responsibility. **If there is any change in the emergency contact information during the school year, please notify your child's teacher or the school office immediately.** It is imperative that we be able to contact you or your substitute in an emergency. Students will not be released to another adult without written permission in a non-emergency situation.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Radio announcements (WLVL 1340 AM in Lockport and all local TV Stations) will be made before 7:00AM if school will be closed due to inclement weather. If Lockport Public Schools are closed for inclement weather, then DeSales Catholic School is closed. If a storm occurs during the day, and it is necessary to close the school, the announcement will be made on the radio and through School Messenger notification at least one hour before dismissal. A child will not be sent home unless we know that there will be supervision at home. Other emergency closings will also be announced in the above manner.

SCHOOL MESSENGER

DeSales Catholic School has enrolled in School Messenger, a system that allows school personnel to notify parents and guardians by telephone, text message and email within minutes of any emergency or unplanned event that causes early dismissal, school closings, or late start to the school day. School Messenger may also be used occasionally to communicate general announcements or reminders. DeSales will continue to report school closings on local television and radio stations, and social media outlets. School Messenger will allow us to quickly contact parents at all designated phone numbers, and deliver a recorded message from a school Administrator. Messages will be communicated in the event of both a live answer or an answering machine/voicemail pickup. All parent and guardian information and contact numbers are strictly secure and confidential, and are used only for the purpose of school communication.

NOTIFICATIONS

ASBESTOS

We are notifying you that according to AHERA (**Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act**) regulation we, like all schools, are required to have an asbestos plan in place. If any parent, teacher or employee wishes to see this plan, a request can be made to the school office where the plan is filed each year. We are in compliance with all AHERA regulations.

PESTICIDES

Often it is necessary for the school to use pesticides both in and outside of the building. At the beginning of the school year, all parents will be given an opportunity to be notified when pesticides might be in use during the year. A form will be sent home, and notification will follow if pesticides are ever in use.

PERMISSION SLIPS

Official permission slips for field trips and student activities will be issued by the school. These slips contain Diocesan guidelines that are to be followed. This is the only permission slip that will be accepted by the school with the parent's/guardian's signature. No one will be permitted to participate in

any function of the school without this signed permission slip. Written notes will not be accepted. A faxed official permission slip will be accepted (Fax# 434-4002).

PERSONAL PROPERTY

A student's name should be marked on all clothing, uniforms, books, and notebooks. A lost and found is provided outside of the Main Office and in the cafeteria and in the stairwell by the priests' house.

PHONE CALLS AND CELL PHONES

No telephone calls may be made without permission from a teacher or administrator.

Telephone calls are not accepted as permission for field trips and student activities.

Cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted for use during the school day unless directed by the teacher. Cell phones brought to school with parent permission must be kept in a student's backpack. A student may not use a

cell phone or any other electronic device owned by another student. If a teacher notices a student with a cell phone, the teacher will send the student to the office immediately where the cell phone will be kept in the office until a parent can pick it up from the principal. Should this occur more than once, the cell phone will be held at the school until the end of the school year in the school safe. **Middle School students may keep their cell phone in the off position in their backpacks.**

SCHOOL UNIFORMS:

Students may wear sneakers with any uniform during the school year and may wear their summer uniform until November 1st.

A student's attitude toward their learning is often reflected in personal appearance. All students are encouraged to display their self-esteem by cleanliness, neatness and adherence to the following dress code. **Substitutions or exceptions will not be permitted.**

DeSALES SPORTS TEAM SWEATSHIRTS, T-SHIRTS OR UNIFORMS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ON MASS DAYS

GIRLS' UNIFORM - GRADES KINDERGARTEN - 4

Blue/Gray plaid jumper with navy crisscross tie

White or light blue peter-pan collar blouse - tucked in at all times

Flynn and O'Hara long sleeve white or navy blue polo shirt may be substituted for white or light blue blouse. Polo shirt must have DeSales logo, and may be worn with navy dress slacks.

White or navy blue knee socks or anklets are required

White or navy cardigan sweater or the official fleece jacket

Black tights or ankle length leggings may be worn with the jumper in the winter

Navy blue or white Flynn and O'Hara sweater vest or plain navy or white sweater vest is optional

Dress shoes – SOLID BLACK, NAVY BLUE OR BROWN DRESS SHOES ONLY. **Sneakers may be worn with all uniforms**

Navy blue dress slacks available at Flynn and O'Hara WITH SOLID BLACK, BROWN OR NAVY BLUE BELT

SOLID WHITE, UNIFORM PLAID, BLUE OR BLACK HEADBANDS ONLY

GIRLS' UNIFORM - GRADES 5-8

Flynn & O'Hara Blue and Gray plaid skirt (**no shorter than 3" above the knee**) **OR**
SOLID NAVY BLUE Flynn & O'Hara 4 pleat skirt (no shorter than 3" above the knee)

White or light blue oxford blouse - tucked in at all times

Flynn & O'Hara Long sleeve white or navy blue polo shirt may be substituted for white or light blue blouse. Polo shirt must have DeSales logo on it, and the Polo shirt does not require tucking.

Solid white or navy knee socks or anklets are required.

White or navy sweater (pullover or cardigan) or the official DeSales fleece jacket

Navy blue or white Flynn and O'Hara sweater vest or solid white or navy sweater vest is optional

Black tights or **ankle length** leggings may be worn with the skirt in the winter

Dress Shoes – SOLID BLACK, NAVY BLUE OR BROWN

Sneakers may be worn with all uniforms.

No boots or stiletto type heels permitted for dress shoes for girls. All shoes must have a back.

Navy blue dress slacks available at Flynn & O'Hara WITH SOLID BLACK, BROWN OR NAVY BLUE BELT.

SOLID WHITE, UNIFORM PLAID, BLUE OR BLACK HEADBANDS ONLY.

BOYS' UNIFORM - GRADES KINDERGARTEN-4

Navy dress pants

White or blue dress shirt - tucked in at all times

Flynn and O'Hara long sleeve white or navy blue polo may be substituted for white or light blue shirt. Polo must have DeSales logo on it, and the Polo shirt does not require tucking.

White or navy sweater, (pullover or cardigan) or the official fleece jacket

Navy or white Flynn and O'Hara sweater vest or navy or white solid sweater vest optional

A solid navy blue, black or brown belt must be worn at all times. Kindergarten not required to wear belt.

Dress shoes – Dark brown, black dress shoes, **Sneakers may be worn with all uniforms.**

Navy blue or black socks are required

BOYS' UNIFORM - GRADES 5-8

Navy dress pants.

White or blue dress shirt with appropriate tie or Bow tie - shirt must be tucked in at all times.

Flynn and O'Hara long sleeve white or navy blue polo may be substituted for white or light blue dress shirt. Polo shirt must have DeSales logo on it, and the Polo shirt does not require tucking.

White or navy sweater, (pullover or cardigan) or the official fleece jacket

A solid navy blue, black or brown belt must be worn at all times with shorts and pants

Dress shoes –Solid black, blue or brown

Sneakers are permitted with all uniforms

Solid navy blue or black socks are required. No logos permitted on socks.

SUMMER UNIFORM may be worn from September 1-November 1 and May 1 - June 30.

Order uniforms directly from Flynn and O'Hara Uniform Company at 1-800-441-4122, online at FlynnO'Hara.com or purchase at the Flynn & O'Hara store in the Georgetown Square Plaza in Amherst.

Navy or white short-sleeve polo shirt with the DeSales logo..Polo with DeSales Logo may be worn with skirts or pants during this time period

Navy blue walking shorts - purchased only from Flynn and O'Hara

Navy blue, black or brown belts must be worn with the walking shorts

No sandals.

GYM UNIFORM

Navy blue T-shirt with the DeSales logo

Navy blue sweatshirt with the DeSales logo **only to be worn on gym days**

Navy blue sweatpants with the DeSales logo

Navy blue shorts with the DeSales logo

No other logos are permitted. SPORTS TEAM UNIFORMS, T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS ARE NOT PERMITTED AS PART OF GYM UNIFORM

Solid white, or blue socks are required. No other colors or designs are permitted.

No nylon tops or pants are to be worn (i.e., wind pants, parachute pants, etc)

Leggings or running tights not permitted under gym shorts. Order DeSales gym uniforms through https://design.shirtpickle.com/desales_gym_uniforms/shop/home anytime and they will be shipped to your home.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS

NO HATS ARE TO BE WORN AT ANY TIME IN THE BUILDING.

NO CARGO PANTS

MOHAWKS AND BLUE, GREEN, PURPLE OR RED HAIR COLORING WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE FOR BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS.

NO HEAVY COSMETICS.

NO INAPPROPRIATE ACCESSORIES.

DRESS DOWN DAYS

Dress down days may be scheduled for the purpose of fundraising. For a donation of \$1.00, students may dress down in jeans and sneakers and other appropriate attire. Guidelines are listed below. If a student dresses down but does not contribute the \$1.00 donation, the student will need to bring the donation on the next school day. If the donation is not fulfilled, the student will not be allowed to participate in the next dress down day.

OUT OF UNIFORM GUIDELINES

STUDENTS MAY WEAR:

JEANS WITH NO HOLES, RIPS OR CUTOFFS.

SNEAKERS

T-SHIRT

SWEATSHIRTS

SOCKS ARE REQUIRED WITH SNEAKERS OR SHOES

SANDALS WITH STRAPS AND BACKS

LONGER SHORTS, NO SHORTER THAN 3 INCHES ABOVE THE KNEE

SKIRTS NO SHORTER THAN 3 INCHES ABOVE THE KNEE

STUDENTS MAY NOT WEAR:

ATTIRE OF ANY KIND WITH HOLES OR RIPS

SPAGHETTI STRAPS

FLIP FLOP SANDALS

NO OPEN BACK SHOES

T-SHIRTS WITH INAPPROPRIATE WRITING

STUDENTS WHO REPEATEDLY VIOLATE UNIFORM POLICY WILL BE DENIED PARTICIPATION IN THE NEXT DRESS DOWN DAY OR WILL SERVE A DETENTION.

UNIFORM EXCHANGE

Our Uniform Exchange Closet is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 am until 8:30 am and 2:30pm-3:30 pm. Parents are encouraged to donate uniform articles and are permitted to take anything they need without charge.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Buffalo that all students have the right to be free from all forms of discrimination, including sexual harassment, in the school environment. Sexual

harassment may take different forms. The following acts, although not automatically sexual harassment, may constitute sexual harassment under certain circumstances:

1. **Verbal** – sexual innuendoes, jokes of a sexual nature, and sexually degrading language to describe an individual;
2. **Nonverbal** – displaying sexually suggestive objects or pictures, leering, and making obscene gestures;
3. **Physical** – unwanted physical contact or touching, brushing up against the body and any other type of coerced sexual activity.

Sexual harassment does not refer to behavior or compliments of a social nature. It refers to behavior which is not welcome, that is personally offensive, that fails to respect the rights and dignity of others.

Any student who believes he/she has been the subject of sexual harassment should report the alleged act immediately to the principal.

The administrator will thoroughly and immediately investigate all claims of sexual harassment. If the investigation reveals that the complaint is valid, prompt attention and disciplinary action to stop the harassment and to prevent its recurrence will be taken. The disciplinary action taken with respect to each violation of this policy will be determined in accordance with the seriousness of the particular offences and may range from written warnings, parent conferences, mandatory counseling, suspensions, dismissal or a combination of actions. The school administrator will advise the complaining party that corrective action has been taken.

In the event that a thorough investigation of an alleged incident of sexual harassment reveals that a student has not engaged in any actions or conduct constituting sexual harassment, the school administrator will inform both the student and the complaining party that a thorough investigation has been conducted and that there exists no grounds or basis to substantiate the alleged sexual harassment.

The school will take reasonable measures to protect the confidentiality of the student, who files a complaint, to encourage the reporting of any incidents of sexual harassment, and to protect the reputation of any student wrongfully charged with sexual harassment.

TEACHER REQUEST POLICY

Students are placed in a class with a particular teacher by their previous teacher. Much thought and consideration is given this process by the teachers. In order for a request for a teacher to be considered, there must be an educational reason for said request and a written request must be submitted to principal. The request should be submitted by June 30th.

TRANSPORTATION

Busing is provided by the Lockport Board of Education for students from Kindergarten through grade 5 provided they live one mile from the school. A distance of one and a half miles is required for students in grades 6-8. Students who live outside the Lockport School District are bused by their respective school districts. Busing is not provided for Pre-K.

Requests for out of district busing must be made in writing by April 1st. During the year alterations in bus routes are not allowed. For problems in busing, please contact the Lockport Board of Education or Ridge Road Express at 433-6777.

It is the parents' responsibility to remind the students of the necessity of proper behavior on the bus. The following guidelines have been established by the Lockport School District:

- Orders of the bus driver must be obeyed
- Heads, arms and hands are to be kept inside the bus at all times
- Emergency doors and windows should not be touched
- Students are to remain seated
- Inappropriate language and behavior will not be tolerated

If bus conduct referrals are issued, students may receive detention. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in loss of bus privileges.

If there is a reason for altering your child's means of transportation, please send a note to the school and a duplicate note for the bus driver. Bus routes may not be altered. These regulations are made to ensure the safety of your child.

Parents of students in the Lockport district wishing to have access to the "Stop Finder App" (which provides the ability to track the location of their child's bus) should provide an email address to the Lockport City School District.

Students must wear a mask on the bus at all times. They may be required to sit 6 feet apart.

TUITION AND FEES

The smooth running of our school is dependent upon prompt payment of tuition and fees. Tuition payments are typically made by parents and guardians over a 12-month period with the first payment due July 10th and the last payment due June 10th. All tuition and fees are non-refundable. **The parish tuition assistance rate will be granted only after the completed Catholic Tuition Grant Program application has been received in the school office.**

TUITION POLICY

1. Payment of tuition is the responsibility of the students' parents or legal guardian.
2. Tuition is payable in twelve monthly payments, July 10th – June 10th for the concurrent school year of September - June. Direct bank withdrawal or the tuition trackers are to be used for payment. No reminder billings will be mailed.
3. If payment is not received by the 30th of the month, a late charge of **\$35** will be added to each month when payment is in arrears and a statement with these additional charges will be mailed.
4. A fee of **\$35** will be charged for all checks returned by the bank.
5. If tuition and fees are in arrears over 60 days, payment arrangements need to be made with the Business Manager. It is the parent's responsibility to initiate this request in due time without reminder or notification from the school. Report cards and or education documents will be delayed until tuition is paid in full or arrangements for payment are made.

6. If tuition and fees are in arrears in excess of 90 days and an acceptable alternative arrangement has not been approved by the Business Office, then students will be withdrawn from the school until all delinquent obligations are paid in full.
7. The school has the right to legal action for non-payment of tuition and fees. Legal fees and collection costs will be the responsibility of the parents or legal guardian.
8. No student may start school in September unless all tuition and fees owed from the previous school year have been paid. This policy is automatic and is applied without special reminder or notification.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial Assistance applications are available upon request from the school office, the Business office, and at our school website, www.desalescatholicsschool.org. Applications for financial assistance are due by April 15th, but may be accepted after the deadline if funds are still available.

TUITION REDUCTION

- Any currently enrolled family bringing a new family to DeSales for grades K - 8 will receive a \$500.00 reduction in their current year tuition.
- Only one reduction per school year.
- The new family must supply a letter to the business office naming the current family who brought them to DeSales.

TUITION SCHEDULE 2021-2022

DeSales Catholic School 2021 - 2022 Tuition Schedule

Kindergarten – 8th Grade

# of students attending from one family	Tuition for families granted Active Catholic Rate	Tuition Amount
1	\$ 4,356 (\$363 per month)	\$ 5,808 (\$484 per month)
2	\$ 7,764 (\$647 per month)	\$ 10,872 (\$906 per month)
3	\$ 10,824 (\$ 902 per month)	\$ 15,624 (\$1,302 per month)
4	\$ 12,864 (\$1,072 per month)	\$ 20,760 (\$1,730 per month)

PreSchool Programs

3 year old program (2 half days / week)	\$ 2,304 (\$192 monthly)
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4 year old program (3 half days / week)	\$ 3,120 (\$260 monthly)
4 year old full day class (5 full days/week)	\$ 5,808 (\$484 monthly)
3 & 4 year old blended full day class (5 full days/week)	\$ 5,808 (\$484 monthly)

Fees

Registration fee:\$100.00 per child – **non-refundable**

Application fee: (1st time registrants only)\$100.00 per family – **non-refundable**

Snack/Supply fee: (Early Childhood programs only).....\$ 35.00 per child – **non-refundable**

All class sizes are limited. Classes will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Monthly Payments are based on annual tuition amount spread over 12 months.

THE FIRST TUITION PAYMENT IS DUE JULY 10TH

THE LAST TUITION PAYMENT IS DUE JUNE 10TH

All Families must pay in full in July 2021 or sign up for tuition payments through electronic bank withdrawal.

There are four options for electronic bank withdrawal:

Monthly: (July 2021 - June 2022)

Quarterly: (July 2021, Oct. 2021, Jan. 2022, Apr. 2022)

Semi-Annually: (July 2021 and January 2022)

Annually: (July 2021)

VISITORS AND SCHOOL SECURITY

All visitors must report to the school Main Office. No one is permitted (parents or visitors) to visit a classroom without first making prior arrangements with the teacher and reporting to the Main Office. All visitors must sign in at the school office and will be given a “Visitor’s Badge” to wear while in the building. These badges should be returned to the Main Office and the visitor should sign out in the office.

Our school building has a complete security system. All exterior doors are locked by 8:30am and remain locked until 2:40pm. In order to gain entry to the building, parents need to access the security system by the main office. Once a person is identified, that person will be buzzed into the building.

During the Pandemic we are limiting our visitors to the building.

VOLUNTEERS

Parents are encouraged to become co-educators with the faculty and staff of DeSales. Opportunities for volunteering are available as lunchroom and playground helper, and homeroom parents. Those wishing to volunteer should contact the office. All volunteers must obtain and submit a Uniform Volunteer Application to the office before beginning to volunteer. All volunteers must attend the Diocesan Protecting God's Children (VIRTUS) workshop. (Verification of attendance at this workshop is required in writing and a background check must be completed before volunteering can happen.) A diocesan Code of Conduct must be signed.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

CURRICULUM

The school follows the course of studies issued by the Diocesan School Superintendent, in accordance with the requirements of the State of New York Department of Education. Emphasis is placed on Religion, English Language Arts and Mathematics since these are the foundation of all other fields. Social Studies, Science and Health are included as an integral part of the curriculum with greater emphasis in grades 4-8. Art, Music and Physical Education are taught each week. Computer classes are provided for students from grades 1-8. Accelerated courses in Algebra and Living Environment will be provided to students in grade 8 who are recommended by teachers for students with a grade of 90 or higher, with consent from parents. In accordance with the Regents Action Plan, a language other than English is part of the 8th grade curriculum. Regent's examinations will be given to students enrolled in either/both Algebra, and Living Environment for possible high school credit. A language other than English is also offered weekly for students in Grades K-7. Ethics and a STREAM activity are taught to 6th grade students. Early Childhood Development Classes are offered to children turning 3- or 4-years old by December 1st.

Kindergarten consists of a full day schedule and follows the NYS and Diocesan Curriculum. Registration takes place at the regular registration period beginning in February. Each Kindergarten student is tested in order to determine reading readiness in June.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETICS

Basketball, swim team, track, volleyball, intramural basketball, baseball, softball, and soccer are offered depending on interest. Those students in grades 6-7-8 wishing to participate in Diocesan league teams must be passing all academic subjects with a 70 at the time of tryouts and throughout the season. Students may be asked to leave a team if it is determined that their behavior or academics are unacceptable at school. This will be determined by the principal.

Sports physicals are mandated by New York State and the Diocese of Buffalo. **A Sports Participation Form signed by a physician must be on file in the school office before the first practice or the student may not participate in the sport. Students and parents must also complete a Concussion Management training form.**

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

The elementary years are a time when students begin to develop their academic self-concept and their feelings of competence and confidence as learners. Children learn best when they feel good about themselves and their relationships with others. They are beginning to develop decision making, communication and life skills, as well as character values. As such, DeSales employs a counselor to provide support services to staff, students and parents, School Counseling Core Curriculum lessons, individual/group counseling, prevention activities and career exploration for all students.

HOMEWORK POLICY

We at DeSales feel that homework is an essential part of the total learning process. We expect that homework is to be completed by the student to the best of their ability, and on time. Students are expected to make up any homework they have missed in a timely manner due to absence from school.

The purpose of daily homework is the re-enforcement of skills learned in the previous day's work, preparation for the following day's class work, or development of a project as a result of a study of an in-depth topic.

Parents of lower grade students who are absent three days or more, who wish to pick up homework for their child, should call the school office in the morning. A message will be relayed to the child's teacher, and homework may be picked up at 3:00 PM in the Main Office. It is difficult for teachers to prepare homework assignments before the end of the school day, since they are responsible for supervising their classes throughout the day.

Homework is the responsibility of the student, and it is a significant part of every quarter's grade. Copying of another student's homework is never permitted and may result in disciplinary actions to be taken by the teacher and/or the administration. Each teacher will determine their own homework policy and will communicate this to parents at the Open House and Mock Schedule evening in September.

In order to help your child develop good study habits, you can encourage them in the following ways:

- Provide a quiet study place away from the TV, telephone or radio.
- Check each night to be sure that the assigned work has been accomplished and has been turned in.
- Be willing to listen to spelling, vocabulary, times tables or other studied material.
- Explain directions to your child, help provide materials needed for projects or rides to the library, but **never do the work for the child.**
- Consult the teacher if your student uses the excuse of "No homework" too often.
- Encourage extra study time which would review the day's learned material.
- Be sure that your child gets 8-10 hours of sleep on school nights and always begins the day with a good breakfast.
- Cheating of any kind is not permitted, and both those who give or receive information from another student will be subject to disciplinary action.

HONOR ROLL

Students in Grades 6-8 are eligible for the Honor Roll. All subjects are considered for Honors including Art, Music, Computer, Foreign Language and Physical Education. In order for a student to be eligible for First or Second Honors or Merit Roll, they must have a 2 or above for effort and conduct. The requirements are as follows:

- First Honors: 95 average or above
- Second Honors: 90 average or above
- Merit Roll: 85 average or above

Students who maintain Honors are rewarded for their hard work at the end of each quarter with Honor Cards and pins.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

The National Junior Honor Society serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character. An overall average of 90 for grade 6 and first Quarter of grade 7 is required. In grade 8, students must have an overall average for grade 6 and 7 and first Quarter of grade 8. Invitations will be sent to eligible students who must complete an application and provide a non-family, non-teacher recommendation by a specific date. Students will be notified of their acceptance in writing. An Induction ceremony will be held. The membership fee is \$10.00. Members are required to participate in a group service project during the school year.

Students must maintain an overall average of 90 and can lose their NJHS status if they are not in good academic or behavior standing.

LIBRARY

The library is available at DeSales Catholic School for the students' use. The same policy for lost or damaged books is used in the library as for regular textbooks.

MAKE-UP WORK

AFTER AN ILLNESS

When the student is ill, it is the responsibility of the student to make up all class work and homework missed during the time of absence. Teachers may also be contacted to give the student the particular assignments which are missing. Information regarding these assignments may be obtained from the Parent Portal and teacher websites. ***Parents should only call the office to have past due class work and homework prepared by the teachers for a pickup, if the student has been absent a total of three or more days.*** Otherwise, ***students should pick up the uncompleted work on the first day that they return from their illness.*** Parents should check to be sure that this make-up work is fully accomplished and turned in to the teacher. At the time of the grading period, if make-up work is due, a grade of "I" for incomplete work may be given. However, at the time of the subsequent

grading period, this incomplete work must be made up. If not, a grade of “0” will be entered into the teacher’s roll book for the incomplete work, and this “0” will be averaged into the quarter grade.

VACATIONS

Vacations are necessary for good health and should be times of rest and relaxation. We ask that all families try to schedule their vacations within the calendar provided by the school. If a student will be away from school for several days, it is the student’s responsibility to make up the work after his/her return to school. ***It is not always possible for teachers to prepare work in advance for students who will be away with their families.***

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students are required to participate in physical education. If a student is unable to participate in Physical Education, he/she is not allowed to go outside during activity period or to participate in an after school sports. A written excuse from a parent/guardian is accepted for two consecutive days. A student may not be excused from gym for more than two days without a doctor’s excuse. The only exception to this is if a child has received stitches. Even without a note, a child with stitches may not participate. All students are required to wear the gym uniform and sneakers. Students will be asked to remove jewelry including watches before participating in activity.

Students in grades K-5 will participate in at least 30 minutes per day of physical activity determined by the classroom teacher under the direction of the physical education instructor.

Students in grades 6-7-8 will participate in an activity period of 20 minutes per day. Activities will vary and will be monitored. The purpose of this activity period is to improve physical fitness as well as concentration in the classroom. No excuses other than medical will be accepted. Students may bring sneakers to change into before and after activity period. Additional time devoted to Physical Education credit will be earned through related class work as in agreement with the Diocese of Buffalo and the New York State Education Department.

PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES

DeSales Catholic School will be using a Quarterly schedule for the school calendar. Report cards are issued four times per year, and represent a means of communicating students’ progress to their parent/guardian. Grades are determined by an average of class work, daily assignments, homework and tests.

Progress Reports will be issued for all students at the Parent Teacher Conferences in October. Parents are encouraged to consult with the teacher whenever they feel it is necessary. If a conference is desired throughout the school year, please call for an appointment. **It is important to realize that teachers are not free to discuss students’ academic standings during the school day when they are responsible for their classes.** Your understanding in this matter is appreciated.

PARENT PORTAL

DeSales Catholic School employs the use of a Parent Portal to help keep parents informed of their child's academic progress. Teachers will regularly update this site with current information to help keep the lines of communication open. It is important that parents regularly check this site as prolonged inactivity will cause individual accounts to be closed by the system. Parents will be made aware of their unique password at the beginning of the new school year.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

The Religion Program forms the central core of our school curriculum. Religion classes are part of the daily schedule in all grades, and all students are expected to participate in religion classes regardless of their denomination. These include doctrinal instruction on the sacraments and teachings of the Church. In the upper grades, students learn how to use the Bible and are led to see the place of the Word of God in their daily lives. Formation in prayer, both personal and liturgical, is an essential part of the program. Opportunities are provided for participation in Mass and other prayer celebrations, including the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **Sacramental preparation for the First Eucharist, First Penance and Confirmation takes place in the individual parish.** It is important that you be aware of your parish's policy so that your child may be prepared for the sacraments. Please contact your parish Director of Religious Education in order to be included in the parish religious education program when your child is ready for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We welcome to the Mass celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family. Non-Catholics are encouraged to come up in the communion line for a blessing.

REMEDIAL STUDIES

Special Reading, Math and Early Intervention programs are offered for grades 1-8. A consultant/resource teacher is available to work with students who have been identified by low scores on the New York State Assessments as well as other diagnostic tests. Academic Intervention Services (AIS) will be provided to children who have diagnosed learning disabilities or those who have been identified as being in need of Title I services. Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy are provided within the school setting for students who have been identified to be in need of these services. The programs may include services through the City of Lockport School District.

STUDENT RECORDS

In case of a withdrawal, scholastic transfers and health records are sent to the school to which the child is transferring at the parent's request. A signed release form is required in order to release any student records. Records are not hand carried to the child's new school. Records will be promptly sent as soon as all the student's books and iPad are returned and all fees are paid in full.

SUPPLIES

A list of school supplies for each grade level will be distributed to parents before the beginning of the school year. Please check your student's supplies periodically throughout the year.

TESTING / ASSESSMENTS

Testing and evaluation are part of the educational process. Unit tests are given at the end of each unit and final exams are administered at the end of the third trimester in grades 4-8.

Other testing includes:

- New York State Language Arts Test for Grades 3 through 8
- New York State Science Test for Grade 8
- New York State Math Test for Grades 3 through 8
- STAR Reading Test K-6 (Fall, Winter, Spring)

TEXTBOOKS

All basic textbooks are on loan to the individual student from their respective school district. Occasionally, a teacher may require an additional book be purchased for use in the class, i.e. novels, atlases, etc.

Each student will be issued numbered textbooks at the beginning of the school year. Responsibility for the good care of these books belongs to each student. All hardcover textbooks must be covered by the end of the first week of school. Contact paper should not be used. At the end of the school year, each teacher will assess the condition of the book assigned to your student. Lost, stolen or damaged books will be replaced by the student with the cost of a new book.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION POLICY

All DeSales students have the ability to be successful in his/her academics. Student progress can be monitored by parents through the Parent Portal for Grades 4-8. Whenever a parent is concerned about a student's academics, a phone call or email to the teacher can always be made. In addition to the quarter report cards, progress reports will be sent three times a year for students who are having difficulties in their academics. Whenever a parent may have concerns, a meeting with the principal can always be held to discuss options that are available for improving a student's academics.

In order to be promoted to the next grade level, students in Grades 4-8 must pass (grade of 70 or more) all academic courses for the year. Should a student not pass a course, the principal will determine how the student will recover that coursework for the year, either through tutoring for 30 hours with a certified teacher or completing a remedial Summer School Program if offered through a public school. Students will have until August 31 to successfully finish each of the fail courses.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Technology resources (such as iPads, laptops and the Internet) are provided by DeSales for the students and staff to instruct, to conduct research and to communicate with others. In some instances with permission from the teachers, students are also allowed to bring in their own devices. DeSales supports the use and integration of technology to achieve educational goals as defined by the Common Core Standards, New York State requirements and the Diocese of Buffalo. Access to technology is provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Access implies responsibility. Computer storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that students are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect files stored on DeSales' servers or flash drives to be private.

As much as possible, DeSales expects access to its technology will point students to those resources which have been reviewed and evaluated prior to use. DeSales has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial material. However, it is impossible to control all materials. Computers and devices will be monitored, but students are responsible for following DeSales' guidelines for appropriate use and bear the consequences for misuse.

The use of technology is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use as determined by the system administrators will result in the cancellation of the privilege and other disciplinary actions may be incurred. System administrators may limit access, deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts if deemed appropriate.

Students have access to the Internet unless parents choose to restrict their child's use with a written letter to the principal. Users observe these rules which include but are not limited to:

1. Using appropriate language.
2. Not revealing personal information online such as home addresses or phone numbers.
3. Being aware that work done on school machines is not guaranteed to be private.
4. Following copyright laws.

Certain behaviors such as the following may result in immediate cancellation of user privileges.

- Vandalism or damage to hardware or software, and the destruction or alteration of data.
- Theft of hardware, unauthorized copying of software, or loading personal software onto school owned computers.
- Accessing or displaying inappropriate or sexually explicit materials.
- Accessing or displaying information which is inflammatory or derogatory of any race, religion, culture, ethnic group, gender, or sexual orientation.
- Attempting to access other systems on the Internet, logging into a system with someone else's account or sharing passwords.
- Impersonating another individual online
- Using the Internet to injure the reputation or diminish the esteem of an individual

Students, teachers or parents use of the internet to slander, libel or defame anyone or the school is expressly forbidden and could result in suspension or involuntary transfer.

If a student breaks the iPad provided by the school the student will be required to pay the cost of having it repaired or replaced.

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

DISCIPLINE POLICY

It is the desire of this school to help each student to be respectful of others' rights and to be responsible for his/her own behavior, self-discipline and respect.

Specific classroom disturbances and particularly troublesome students may hinder the learning process for the larger group. All students have the right to learn. Good behavior by all students is necessary so that the time for teaching and learning are not wasted.

Parents are asked to review these guidelines and cooperate with the school's guidelines so that students might learn appropriate behavior and learn to accept responsibility for their actions.

The school reserves the right to discipline students for conduct, whether inside or outside school, that is detrimental to the reputation to the school.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS:

Examples include, but are not limited to the following:

- excessive tardiness
- inappropriate use of technology off campus
- obscene or abusive language or gestures
- possessing obscene materials
- possession of a hazardous item
- possessing fireworks
- in possession of any object resembling a weapon
- display of anger or disrespect to another student, teacher or adult
- defiance of any kind
- persistent disregard of classroom or school rules
- out of uniform
- taking money or property
- excessive talking in class
- cheating or plagiarizing of any kind
- lying
- destroying school property
- physical abuse or harm to a student, teacher or adult
- possession of a dangerous weapon
- threatening to use a weapon
- possession, use or sale of drugs, alcohol or tobacco
- suspicion of the use or sale of drug, alcohol or tobacco
- committing an act such as hitting, kicking, punching, spitting, biting or scratching

- racial or sexual comments
- running, shouting horseplay
- failing to comply with the directions of teacher, administrator and other school employees
- leaving school without permission

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Disciplinary actions will be determined by considering the following:

- age of student
- circumstances of the offense
- student's prior disciplinary record
- effectiveness of disciplinary actions
- information obtained by teacher, administrator, counselor, parents and others

Middle School Students need to take responsibility for behavior, make up for the harm caused and prove that they have learned appropriate behaviors. In order to accomplish this, corrective action may include the following:

- Verbal warning to the student
- Phone call to parents
- Discipline referral report sent to parents and returned to school with parents signature
- assignment of special tasks
- Creation of a behavior implementation plan
- Parent conference
- Suspension from social, extracurricular or athletic activities
- Detention
- Probation (terms to be determined during a meeting with parents, teacher, administration and student)
- Suspension from transportation
- In the case of vandalism, financial restitution will be paid for the damage caused
- Out of school suspension not to exceed 5 days
- Involuntary transfer

The severity of the consequence will equal the unacceptable behavior and will be made at the discretion of the principal based on individual circumstances. Students whose behavior consistently disrupts class (i.e. talking out, shouting out, getting out of his/her desk repeatedly, making disruptive noises, throwing objects, etc.) will receive disciplinary action, which is expected to stop future disruptive behavior. Should this behavior continue, more serious disciplinary action will take place, and a conference or phone call will take place with the parents of this student. If this behavior should continue, a student may be asked to leave the school either during or at the end of the school year. A student may be placed on disciplinary probation, his/her behavior will be monitored on a regular basis, and if it is determined to be serious enough to be disruptive to classroom instruction, that student will be required to leave the school.

Students who receive three suspensions may be asked to withdraw from the school or may be subject to involuntary transfer. There are extreme cases in which a student may be involuntarily transferred from school. This would be the result of offenses that pose a threat to the learning environment or the safety of students and/or teachers. A conference to discuss the reasons for the transfer will be held before the expulsion has been completed.

A severe offense will result in a conference with the parent, assistant principal and the principal and possible suspension or transfer. The length of the suspension will depend on the age of the child and the seriousness of the offense. At the conference (1) the reason for the suspension will be discussed; (2) the policy of the school in regard to the suspension will be reviewed; (3) and remedial steps will be presented to prevent reoccurrence of the offense.

In the event that a Pre-K – Grade 2 student's behavior requires corrective action, the following steps may be taken:

- Teacher will conference with the student
- Child's seat may be reassigned as well as other strategies to help improve behavior
- Administration will be notified
- Parents will be notified and parent conference may be scheduled
- Documentation will be kept by the teacher and administration
- Denial of privileges may be necessary

For grades 3, 4 and 5, the following steps may be taken:

- All of the steps stated above for grades Pre-K-2
- A one hour detention with the teacher may be necessary in the event the previous steps are ineffective.

DIOCESAN POLICY ON VIOLENT THREATS

DeSales Catholic School takes violent threats very seriously. Should any student make a violent threat towards another student, self, a teacher or the school, the following protocol will be activated.

1. The principal will confirm that other students are not in immediate danger.
2. The student making the threat will be segregated immediately from the student body by the principal and the student's parents will be called.
3. Civil authorities, including police or sheriff's departments will be called by the principal to do an investigation of the threat.
4. The student will be sent home with his/her parents by the principal.
5. The student will not be readmitted to the school until police have determined that there was no real threat, the student has been evaluated for emotional stability and is under the care of a professional medical provider. The advice of a professional counselor or medical provider will be used in determining the course of action to take for the student making the threats. In no case is the school obligated to readmit the student.
6. The school has the discretion of notifying parents of the incident with an explanation of the administration of the protocol.

7. In cases where the school has a board of limited jurisdiction, the board members should be notified of the incident and the board should review the policy and the protocol to ensure that they have been followed.

CAFETERIA BEHAVIOR

It is expected that all students will act with dignity and respect in the cafeteria. The following are a list of expectations that all students will follow in the cafeteria:

- No throwing food or any other items
- Remain in your seat until dismissed
- Leave the cafeteria in an orderly fashion
- Pick up garbage and throw it out properly
- No yelling, screaming or foul (bad) language will be permitted

Any inappropriate behavior in the cafeteria will result in the removal of the student from the cafeteria during lunch time for a time to be determined by the administration based on the severity of the actions. Parents will be notified verbally or in writing. Detention may be assigned.

CONDUCT REFERRALS AND DETENTION

Students whose behavior is inappropriate will receive a conduct referral describing the objectionable behavior. Parents should sign the referral and it should be returned to the Main Office on the following day. After three conduct referrals have been given, a student will be assigned to detention. Students may also receive detention notices if the objectionable behavior warrants it. If a student fails to return conduct referral or detention notice the following day, the student will receive a detention. Detentions will be served on the day assigned by the teacher or principal. A student who fails to report for an assigned detention will be subject to suspension by the principal.

The faculty takes this system very seriously in helping students to grow in the ability to control themselves. All students and parents should assume this same seriousness in considering a student's conduct referrals and detentions.

With good cooperation between home and school, your student will enjoy an atmosphere of growth, which encourages self-disciplining skills.

DISMISSAL

Valid reasons for dismissal may include:

- Repeated disregard for Christian principles if moral conduct
- Parents' and or student's continued lack of cooperation in supporting the school's mission and policies
- Student behavior that disrupts learning or presents a threat to the safety of others
- The principal's determination that the school's program cannot provide a benefit to the child

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire drill and emergency drill instructions are posted in each classroom. When the fire alarm or emergency drill is announced, all students are to be in complete silence for the entire length of the drill. Drills may include chemical threats, bomb threats, lockdown, lockout or shelter in place drills. All directions of teachers must be followed.

PARTICIPATION IN FIELD TRIPS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At DeSales Catholic School good conduct is essential. We seek to develop appropriate behavior, manners and positive attitudes by setting high standards for both academic and Christian conduct. This is accomplished in many ways. Students are expected to respect all school personnel and to cooperate in keeping school policies. This policy is kept in mind when determining student eligibility for participation in field trips as well as extra-curricular activities, including:

- Assemblies
- Community Service Activities
- Game Club
- HISTOP
- Instrumental lessons
- National Junior Honor Society
- School Musical
- Student Senate
- Ski Club
- Running Club
- Dance Team
- STREAM Academies

Students who receive either in school or out of school suspension may be excluded from field trips for the remainder of the school year.

Students with a total of three Conduct Referrals and/or two detentions may not be eligible to participate in field trips for a period of ten weeks from the date of the third referral or second detention. Any behavior deemed inappropriate by a DeSales staff member may cause a student to be ineligible for a particular field trip.

Students must have good attendance. Excessive absences and/or tardiness will be an area of concern for exclusion from field trip participation.

Students must show evidence of good academic progress. This includes turning in homework and other assignments in a timely manner.

Students must demonstrate consistent effort in all areas.

The final decision regarding field trip participation will be made by the administration and teachers.

The Diocesan Field Trip permission slip will be given to students for field trips and student activities. This is the slip that will be required to be returned before the student is able to leave for the trip. The official Diocesan permission slip is the only permission slip accepted by the school with parent or

guardian signature. Written notes will not be accepted. A faxed official permission slip will be accepted (fax # (716) 434-4002).

Field Trips are an integral part of the educational experience to provide opportunities otherwise unavailable within the confines of the four walls of the school. It is expected that all eligible students will fully participate. However, if a student does not elect to attend a scheduled field trip, it is expected that they will be in regular attendance at school. Non-attendance will be recorded as an absence and be reported as such in compliance with New York State Education Law.

STREAM

STREAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. STREAM Education allows academic concepts to be coupled with increased real life application in all disciplines. Students become involved in hands on projects where problem solving, collaboration and the results of their efforts make lessons and activities more relevant than a textbook alone.

PLAGIARISM

Any student, who plagiarizes or cheats on a test or assignment, after an investigation has been completed, will be subject to all or some of the following consequences at the discretion of the teacher or administrator:

- 0% on the assignment. Student's work is confiscated
- Verbal or written notification to parent
- Detention
- In-school suspension
- Out of school suspension

SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

Misuse of drugs and alcohol is harmful to a student physically, mentally and socially. The following guidelines will be followed to insure that DeSales Catholic School will be an effective place of learning where each student may grow in character and respect himself/herself and others:

- Any student who is selling, giving or in any way dealing in drugs or alcohol in school or at any school function is liable to expulsion. The student will be suspended immediately and a conference with the parents will be arranged. Law enforcement may be contacted.
- Any student who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol in school or at any school sponsored function will be suspended. A conference with the parents will be arranged.

- Any student who is in possession of drugs or alcohol or drug/alcohol paraphernalia will be suspended immediately and a parent conference will be arranged. The appropriate law enforcement authorities may be contacted.

The principal will administer suitable punishment. In all cases a full disposition statement will be drawn up and placed in the student's file.

VIOLENCE AND DUE PROCESS

DeSales Catholic School has a **zero tolerance policy** for acts or threats of bullying and or violence against the school faculty, staff, and students either in or out of school. If an act or threat of violence occurs the following policy will be in effect:

Parents of the students committing the violation will be called immediately, and the students will be placed on out-of-school suspension, which could lead to expulsion pending further investigation.

- An investigation may include speaking to teachers, students, or staff asking if they witnessed or heard a student threaten violence or act in a violent manner.
- If the threat was written, the student's handwriting/printing will be checked.
- Written documentation of all witnesses' testimony will be taken.
- A conference with the parents and student will be held including a written statement by the principal and possible consequences pending further investigation.
- Students who have teased or bullied students causing an outburst of violence will also be placed on disciplinary action.
- The police may be notified.
- A letter of explanation to all parents will be sent home as soon as possible assuring them that the safety of their children is a priority and proper measure have been taken to ensure that the school is safe.

I. OLWEUS BULLYING POLICY INTRODUCTION

The DeSales Catholic School Board of Trustees ("Board") is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment, in which students may receive and school personnel deliver services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior is expected by all students, teachers, other DeSales Catholic School personnel, contracted personnel, parents, and other visitors and is essential to achieving a positive school climate that is safe and disciplined.

DeSales Catholic School recognizes that we have a diverse group of faculty, staff, and students, and we embrace and value the diversity of all our members. It is our policy to be inclusive and mindful of this diversity in our policies, programs, classrooms, and interactions with others. We affirm all people regardless of their age, culture, disabilities, ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, marital status, nationality, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

DeSales Catholic School has a long standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the teachings of St. Francis DeSales; and his principles of kindness, humility, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Disciplinary action will be taken

when necessary for unacceptable behavior. To this end, the Board of Trustees adopts this policy on bullying behavior.

II. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this code, the following definitions, which have been taken from the New York State Department of Education's website, <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact> apply:

Bullying- unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying can occur before and after school hours, in a school building or at locations such as on a playground or on a school bus while a student is traveling to or from school, or on the Internet. Students who are bullied and those who are bullying others may potentially have serious and lasting problems. According to the United States Department of Education (USDOE), www.stopbullying.gov/what-is-bullying/definition/index.html, bullying generally involves the following characteristics:

- **An Imbalance of Power:** Students who bully others use their power, such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity, to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- **The Intent to Cause Harm:** Determining the intent of an individual who demonstrates bullying behaviors may be difficult. The perception of the person who is the target of those behaviors should also be considered.
- **Repetition:** Bullying behaviors generally happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Examples of bullying include, but are not limited to:

- **Verbal:** Name-calling, teasing, inappropriate sexual comments, taunting, and threatening to cause harm.
- **Social:** Spreading rumors about someone, excluding others on purpose, telling other students not to be friends with someone, and embarrassing someone in public.
- **Physical:** Hitting, punching, shoving, kicking, pinching, spitting, tripping, pushing, and taking or breaking someone's things.
- **Cyber:** Taking/spreading of inappropriate pictures, using social media platforms such as Instagram or Snapchat to spread rumors, threaten harm, etc.

Harassment is aggressive pressure or intimidation from one student to another.

III. PREVENTION

DeSales Catholic School has adopted the evidenced-based Olweus Bullying Prevention program. Olweus is a program that is designed as a prevention model that decreases incidents of harassment, bullying and/or discrimination by helping students' foster supportive relationships with one another through various classroom and school activities.

The components of such an effort involve the following:

- Following the principles and practices of the Buffalo Diocese in regards to the social and emotional development of our students that emphasize empathy, tolerance, and respect of others; and following the practices of our school patron saint, St. Francis DeSales.
- Learning about and identifying the early warning signs and precursor behaviors that can lead to harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination.
- Gathering information about harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination directly from students (through surveys, focus groups, etc.); analyzing and using our data to inform decision-making in regards to programming, security, etc.
- Students will also receive weekly lessons through the school-wide school counseling curriculum, and daily announcements emphasizing empathy, tolerance, and respect for others.
- Establishing clear school-wide rules regarding harassment, bullying, and discrimination. DeSales has adopted the following anti-bullying rules, which are displayed in each classroom:
 - **We will not bully others.**
 - **We will try to help students who are bullied.**
 - **We will try to include students who are left out.**
 - **If we know that someone is being bullied, we will tell someone at home and at school.**
- Training adults in the school community to respond sensitively and consistently to harassment, bullying and/or discrimination.
- Providing adequate supervision, particularly in less structured areas, including, but not limited to, hallways, cafeteria, school buses, and playgrounds.
- Raise parental and community awareness and involvement regarding harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination.
- Providing examples of positive behaviors that are age appropriate.
- Instituting policies and practices that create a positive school climate.
- Educating students regarding safe and appropriate use of the Internet and social media through our Technology program.

IV. **INTERVENTION**

Students who have been subjected to harassment, bullying and/or discrimination, persons in parental relation who children have been subjected to such behavior, or other students who observe or are told of such behavior, are encouraged and expected to make verbal and/or written reports. **All DeSales staff, when aware of harassment, bullying and/or discrimination, are required to orally report the incident within one school day to the School Counselor or Assistant Principal and report it in writing within two school days after making an oral report.**

A. **REPORTING and INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES:**

- a. **PARENT REPORTING:** Parents who become aware of harassment, bullying and/or discrimination should immediately contact your child's teacher to report the incident. Further acts of bullying, harassment, or discrimination or if severity warrants such notification should be directed to the School Counselor and

Assistant Principal. Parents also have the option to submit such concerns online. Please view the following website: <http://www.desalecatholicsschool.org> to report issues of bullying, harassment, or discrimination. Concerns submitted electronically will be handled within 1 to 2 school days.

- b. **STUDENT REPORTING:** Students are encouraged to take a proactive role ensuring that our school is a safe, positive learning environment. Students are asked to report any witnessed accounts of bullying, harassment, or discrimination to any DeSales Catholic School staff member. DeSales' staff will follow the above mentioned reporting procedure. Students are also encouraged to tell an adult at home. Students and their parents/guardians may also anonymously report any accounts of bullying, harassment, discrimination, or safety concerns through the Stop It app. The Stop It app is a free app that can be downloaded through the Google Play or Apple Store. The access code for the Stop It app is DeSales14094. Once your app is activated, and a Report is submitted through the app it is sent directly to administration and the school counselor, who will address each report as soon as possible.

Complaints shall always be documented, tracked, investigated, and remediated in accordance with the regulations and procedures accompanying this policy and our Code of Conduct.

The results of any such investigation shall be reported to the targeted student and the alleged offender, as well as their respective persons in parental relation in accordance with DeSales' Code of Conduct.

V. **STUDENT DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES/REMEDiation**

While the primary focus of this policy is on prevention, acts of harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination may still occur. When such acts occur, student offenders will be given a clear message that their actions are inappropriate, will not be tolerated, and are inconsistent with the values of DeSales Catholic School. It is our mission to provide a safe and supportive school environment for all. In accordance with our discipline policy in the Conduct of Conduct, student offenders will be advised their behavior must improve, and they will receive in-school guidance on making positive choices in their relationships with others. Further information about possible interventions/remediation can be found in Appendix A.

Any questions regarding this policy or any policy should be directed to School Administration and/or the Board of Trustees.

Appendix A

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Description of Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling Out • Disrespectful • Inappropriate use of electronic devices • Stealing • Lying • Bullying • Hall misconduct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated behavior disrupting the learning of others • Repeated use of inappropriate language • Repeated bullying • Repeated stealing • Deliberate destruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severely physically aggressive • Severely verbally aggressive • Self-injurious

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch/recess misconduct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of property Verbal or physical aggression 	
Manager of Intervention	Classroom Teacher	School Counselor Social Worker Assistant Principal	Principal
Who Can Recommend Intervention	Classroom Teacher	Any Staff Member	Principal ONLY
Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with other building staff Verbal warning Classroom modifications Discussion with Student Parent contact/home-school initial communication within 1 school day; up to 2 school days for investigation/reports to all involved Letter of apology Incentive system for positive behavior Loss of privilege/activity BIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modification of Behavioral Intervention Plan Functional Behavior Assessment Lunch Bunch counseling Individual/group counseling Second Step classroom program Referral to principal Referral to Social Worker/Outside resources Referral to CST 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> De-escalation Strategically taught social skills Strategically taught classroom behaviors

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

HEALTH OFFICE

The School Nurse is in the building every day. You may reach the nurse at 434-4680. Please inform the nurse if your child has any contagious illness, taking any medication, or has other health related needs which might need attention during the school day. Please feel free to contact the nurse at any time if you have any questions or you need assistance with regard to your child's health. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Please remember to notify the health office of changes in your child's health status re: illnesses, surgeries, prescribed medications, allergies, and vaccine boosters etc. in order to maintain a current health record and modify the school program according to your child's medical needs.

ACCIDENTS

Minor injuries will be handled by the school nurse (ice, Band-Aids). If the nature of the accident warrants, the parents will be called. In the event of a serious accident, 911 will be called and the student will be transported to Eastern Niagara Hospital-Lockport. Parents should go directly there upon notification. Minor injuries that happen at home should be taken care of at home.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

If your child is diagnosed as having a contagious illness (i.e. Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox, Strep throat), please inform your school nurse. A student will be sent home from school if found to have symptoms of a contagious illness. If your child has seen their physician, please request a note from him/her to return to school.

DENTAL HEALTH CERTIFICATES

New York State Education Law now requests that dental health certificates be completed for each student entering **kindergarten, second, fourth, seventh grade**, and for **every new entrant** to a school from out of the district. Dental Health Certificates shall be signed by a duly licensed dentist authorized to practice in New York State. Each certificate shall describe the dental health condition of the student when the examination is made and shall state whether the student is in fit condition of dental health to permit his/her attendance in school. Dental Health evaluations may be conducted within 12 months from the start of a school year. A list of area Dentists may be obtained from your school nurse upon request.

DOCTOR'S NOTE

A Physician's note is needed for the use of crutches or other special equipment in school. Children who have been hospitalized or absent for an extended period of time (greater than five days) need a doctor's note to return to school. The letter should include any physical restrictions (i.e. no gym due to surgery). This letter should include the length of time of the restriction. If your child did not see a physician during the course of this illness, he/she should see the school nurse upon returning to school in order for the nurse to verify that the symptoms have been resolved.

EMERGENCY FORMS

Each year we ask you to fill out an emergency form for your child to provide us with updated phone numbers where parents or a designated alternate person may be reached in the event of illness or injury. This form is important so that we may ensure the proper care and instructions in the event of an emergency.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

In compliance with New York State guidelines, students are screened for vision, hearing, and scoliosis. Health screening is performed individually with regard to every student's privacy and comfort. Any parent or guardian may refuse to have any portion of the health screening performed. Refusal should be indicated to the principal in writing. You will receive a referral letter for any problems detected during our screening procedures. We ask that you have your physician evaluate the problem, complete the referral form, and return it to the school nurse.

MEDICATIONS

The New York State Education Department has specific regulations for the administration of medication at school. The school will **not** give **ANY** medication, prescription or over-the-counter, to any child without written authorization from a licensed prescriber (Physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician Assistant), written permission from a parent/guardian and the medicine in a labeled prescription bottle. The nurse will try to administer your child's medication as closely as possible to the time prescribed. Students may self-administer certain medications at the discretion of the parent, prescriber and school nurse. The parent/guardian and physician must still complete a medication administration form which indicates the student may carry and self-administer the medication. All medication orders expire at the end of the school year. Therefore, students who take medication daily need a new order each year. Forms are available in the nurse's office.

PUPIL ABSENCES / EARLY RELEASE

Please call all absences in to the nurse's office at (716) 434-4680. If we have not heard from you, a call home will be made to determine why your child is absent. This is done not only to monitor illness and attendance, but to assure student safety. A note signed by a parent explaining absence is required the day the student returns. Early releases due to health related appointments require a written note from the parent/guardian. Students should be signed out at the office by the parent/guardian or their designee.

SCHOOL PHYSICALS

New York State Education law requires that a physical examination be completed for every student entering **kindergarten, second, fourth, seventh grades** and for **every new entrant** to a school from out of the district. Each examination shall include a calculation of the Body Mass Index (BMI) and weight status category. We encourage that your physician examine your child. If this is not possible, the district's Pediatric Nurse Practitioner will complete the physical during scheduled times at school. If your child is scheduled for a physical exam with your physician, please obtain the physical examination form from the school nurse, have your physician complete and sign the form, and return it to the health office. If your child is to have a physical in school, you may be present at the time of the examination to confer with the nurse practitioner.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Students must be fully immunized following New York State Law. The **ONLY** exception is a medical exemption which must be verified annually by a physician.