

Fall, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians of St. Ferdinand School,

Whenever a change or addition to our School Handbook is needed, we will notify you of that through an addendum. Please note that the following addendums/amendments have been added to our School Handbook and go into effect immediately.

These addendums are being implemented in the interest of complying with standards and expectations issued by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Archdiocese of Chicago. I am informing you of these updates so that we can maintain our status as a recognized school in the State of Illinois. The addendums will be incorporated permanently into the new version of the School Handbook in the next academic year.

Thank you for choosing St. Ferdinand School for your child's elementary school education. We value your partnership and are happy to be part of your child's academic and social success. Together as partners we enable your child to grow academically, emotionally and spiritually.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Most Sincerely,


Erin Boyle Folino
Principal

St. Ferdinand School Handbook Addendums 2023-2034

Governance

St. Ferdinand School operates under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Therefore, the School adopts in whole all policies set forth in the **Educational Policy Manual for School Administrators** published by the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The school administrator, faculty and governance board are required to follow all policies of the Archdiocese. Additional local policies may be developed to govern the operation of the school but may not be contrary to those set policies and procedures established by the Chicago Archdiocese.

Social Media

Students and their parents/guardians are advised that the school, by Illinois statute (Illinois Public Act 098-0129), may not request or require a student to provide a password or other related account information in order to gain access to the student's account or profile on a **social networking website**. The administration and faculty may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is sufficient evidence to suggest the student's social network account violates the school's rules and/or disciplinary policy. The school may require a student to share content in the course of such an investigation.

Non Discrimination Statements

As per Illinois PA 102-0360, St. Ferdinand School does not prohibit hairstyles that are historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists.

St. Ferdinand School allows a student athlete to modify his or her athletic or team uniform for the purpose of modesty in clothing or attire that is in accordance with the requirements of his or her religion or his or her cultural values or modesty preferences provided such uniform modifications do not contradict or create confusion with Catholic social teaching. The modification of athletic or team uniforms may include, but is not limited to, the wearing of a hijab, an undershirt, or leggings. If a student chooses to modify his or her athletic or team uniform, the student is responsible for all costs associated with the modification of the uniform and the student shall not be required to receive prior approval from the school for such modification.

School Incident Reporting System (SIRS)

Illinois Compiled Statutes mandate that certain types of incidents (drugs, weapons, and attacks on school personnel) occurring in or on school property be reported to local law enforcement authorities and the Illinois State Police (ISP) within one to three days of the occurrence of the incident. In order to satisfy the requirement of reporting incidents to the ISP, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), in conjunction with the ISP, have created the School Incident Reporting System (SIRS). The SIRS is a web-based application used by schools to report incidents electronically but which also requires schools to report incidents to local law enforcement authorities.