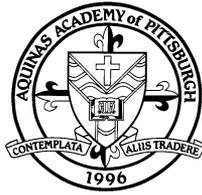


2019-2020
Student/Parent Handbook

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Mission Statement

Aquinas Academy is a private school formed in the Catholic tradition for boys and girls in grades Pre-Kindergarten through twelfth grade. The Academy was formed and will be governed by parents who are deeply committed to the moral and intellectual formation of their children, which they recognize to be their ultimate responsibility. The Academy is committed to ensuring that this formation takes place in the context of solid Christian teaching and piety, which is completely loyal to the teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church. Accordingly, the mission of Aquinas Academy is:

1. To serve parents in carrying out their fundamental responsibility to ensure the moral and intellectual formation of their children;
2. To foster in the Academy's students a fuller understanding of, and a deep appreciation for, their Catholic faith in a manner completely loyal to the teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church;
3. To offer Academy students an intensive traditional curriculum covering all the major areas of the liberal arts and natural sciences, in an academic program that is both rigorous and college preparatory;
4. To help each student reach his or her fullest potential and acquire the tools necessary to succeed in higher education and professional life;
5. To produce exceptionally well-formed and authentically Catholic leaders whose future accomplishments are of service to others and give glory to God in the midst of the world;
6. To offer such a program to qualified students from a wide range of social, economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.

Parent-School Covenant

Aquinas Academy was founded upon the principle that parents are the primary educators of their children. For this principle to be effectively observed for the benefit of your children, it is essential that both the school and parents understand their respective obligations to the other. Parents may expect high educational, ethical and professional standards from the Academy, and in turn, the Academy can expect parents to support and encourage their children at home both in the areas of their intellectual and religious formation.

What Parents Can Expect from Aquinas Academy

- Parents can expect that Aquinas Academy will strive to maintain a safe and secure environment for their children, and that teachers and administrators will react swiftly to any rumors or threats against the safety of its students either individually or as a school.
- Parents can expect regular communication from the Academy regarding the academic progress of their children. This may take the form of phone calls, email, or other written communication.
- Parents can expect access to teachers regarding the academic progress of their children, or other issues related to their lives at Aquinas Academy. This access may be in the form of phone calls, e-mails, or on-site conferences between teachers and parents.
- Parents can expect to be notified promptly of any serious disciplinary infraction involving their children.
- Parents can expect that all Aquinas Academy faculty and staff will model for their students the Christian virtues which are at the heart of growth in Christian holiness; the same virtues which lie at the heart of the Academy's program of religious and human formation.
- Parents can expect that Aquinas Academy teachers will never teach, either by example or in their courses, anything contrary to the official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

What Aquinas Academy Can Expect from Parents

- Aquinas Academy can expect that parents will support, encourage and help order the lives of their children toward Christian holiness and virtue.
- Aquinas Academy can expect that parents will model integrity and virtue for their children, and that they will hold them accountable for inappropriate behavior expressed either in the home or at school.
- Aquinas Academy can expect that parents will support and endorse the philosophy and mission of the school; that they will attend school events and activities as reasonably possible, including parent conferences; and that parents will, to the degree possible, support and take part in the activities of the Aquinas Academy Parents' Association.
- Aquinas Academy can expect that parents will register their dissatisfactions and complaints in a reasonable and fair way, will not gossip, and will give everyone the benefit of the doubt by assessing the facts before passing judgment. Solutions to specific classroom issues must be sought at the level of the teachers, before approaching the administration at a higher level.

- Aquinas Academy can expect that parents of all its students, but especially those who have reached the age of receiving Holy Communion, will provide for their children the opportunity of fulfilling their Sunday obligation to attend Mass each week.
- Aquinas Academy can expect that parents will fulfill their financial obligations to the Academy in a timely manner, including the payment of tuition, fees, and other expenses.

Resolving Questions or Concerns

In any human society there will be conflict. The mark of a Christian society is the way in which those conflicts are resolved. Virtue and respect for others demands that questions or concerns be addressed directly to those involved and not discussed with others, or that they not be presented to higher levels of authority unless previous attempts at resolution have been unsuccessful.

- If there are conflicts with other students, please contact the teacher who will try to resolve the conflict with the students involved.
- If there are questions of classroom order, expectations, grading or discipline, please contact the teacher involved to schedule a meeting to discuss your concerns.
- If you have a general question regarding the academic, advisory, activities or athletic programs please contact the person responsible for that aspect of the Academy's program.
- If you have a question regarding your financial arrangements with the Academy, please contact the Business Manager.
- If you have already attempted to resolve your questions or concerns by the normal means and feel that you have been unsuccessful, please feel free to contact the school secretary to arrange for a meeting with the Head of School.

THE AQUINAS ACADEMY PARENTS' ASSOCIATION (AAPA)

The role of the AAPA as defined by its bylaws is to work with the Head of School and Activities Director to promote and foster parent support for (a) the mission of Aquinas Academy, (b) the academic, spiritual, and moral growth of its students, (c) the work of its faculty, and (d) to coordinate the involvement of the parents in the Academy. The AAPA provides an indispensable role in that it provides essential support for our program in these key areas and is the primary means by which parents are involved in school.

The AAPA provides many committee opportunities for parent participation and also coordinates large fundraising efforts to support major projects on campus. The AAPA should never be understood to be a means of altering or suggesting changes to Aquinas Academy policies.

The officers of the AAPA for the 2019-2020 school year are:

Co-Chairs:	Lower School:	Jennifer Dingle, Wendy Karem
	Middle School:	
	High School:	Sandi Giacobbe, Janine Vella

THE FOUNDING OF AQUINAS ACADEMY

Aquinas Academy was founded in 1996 by 5 families who had a vision of establishing a Catholic school of wide appeal that would compare favorably to the most prestigious secular schools in terms of its academic rigor and quality of its classical curriculum. Within the context of this academic rigor, the founders also wanted a school known for its ability to promote in its students good character, and a love of their faith based on orthodox Catholic teaching and habits of piety.

After much prayer and discernment, Bishop Wuerl, then Bishop of Pittsburgh, was approached with the idea of founding a new Catholic academy in the diocese of Pittsburgh. The founders presented their vision of a school, independent of the diocese, but faithful to its bishop and submissive to his guidelines for religious education. Bishop Wuerl gave his generous support to their request, and also his permission for them to lease an unused school building from St. Catherine of Sweden Church in Hampton Township. The doors of Aquinas Academy then opened in September of 1996 with only 13 students in 3 grades.

Aquinas Academy has experienced tremendous growth, as well as academic and spiritual success in the brief years of its existence. The 2002-2003 school year saw the addition of a kindergarten program, while a Preschool was added in 2005-2006. The founders' original vision of a rigorous academic program has been realized with consistent standardized test scores above the 97th percentile for Lower and Middle School students, and superb PSAT, SAT and AP scores in our High School.

In August of 2002 Aquinas Academy purchased the 11-acre site of St. Catherine of Sweden Church, and immediately began construction of Dolan field. In September of 2005 Aquinas dedicated Kennedy & Mary Smith Hall, a 5-classroom renovation as Aquinas Academy High School, and in 2009, Aquinas celebrated the opening of the Rhodora J. Donahue Multi-Purpose Facility. The opening of Mross-McGonigle Hall in December, 2014, added classrooms and labs, providing the physical academic resources necessary to make Aquinas Academy one of the premier educational facilities in the Pittsburgh area.

Academic Program

Lower School

Kindergarten: Art, History, Latin, Math, Music, Penmanship, Phonics, Physical Education, Reading, Religion, Science

Grade 1: Art, English, History, Latin, Math, Music, Penmanship, Phonics, Physical Education, Reading, Religion, Science, Spelling

Grade 2: Art, English, Handwriting, History, Math, Music, Phonics, Physical Education, Reading, Religion, Science, Spanish, Spelling

Grade 3: Art, Computer, English, Handwriting, History, Math, Music, Phonics, Physical Education, Reading, Religion, Science, Spanish, Spelling

Grade 4: Art, Computer, English, French, Handwriting, History, Math, Music, Physical Education, Reading, Religion, Science, Spelling

Grade 5: Art, Computer, English, French, History, Math, Music, Physical Education, Reading, Religion, Science, Spelling

Middle School

Grade 6: Math, English, World Geography, Religion, Latin Introduction, Earth and Space Science, Art, Music, Physical Education, Study Skills, Computer

Grade 7: Algebra Readiness/Pre-Algebra/Algebra I, English, Western Civilization, Religion, Latin I, Life Science, Art, Music, Physical Education, Computer, High School Prep, Writer's Workshop

Grade 8: Pre-Algebra/Algebra I/Geometry, English, United States History, Religion, Latin II, Physical Science, Art, Music, Physical Education, Computer, High School Prep, Intro to Spanish/Intro to French

High School Courses and Graduation Requirements

English	4 years
Mathematics	through Pre-Calculus (3 years; 4 strongly suggested)
History	4 years
Science	3 years (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
*Latin	2-3 years
*Spanish/French	2-3 years
Religion	4 years
Philosophy	1 year
Art/Chorus/Band	
Physical Education	
Electives	

*Must take 3rd year of either Latin or Modern Language

For detailed course descriptions visit the Academy's website at www.AquinasAcademy-Pittsburgh.org.

Grading Periods

There are four grading periods. The dates are listed on the annual school calendar. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled following the first grading period and by request after other grading periods. Parents are encouraged to call or e-mail teachers throughout the year when questions or concerns arise regarding their child's academic progress.

Study and Homework

Study is the first priority of students. It is the teacher's task to ensure that study happens at school, and the parent's task to make certain all assignments are completed at home. A regular time and place – free of distractions – for the completion of homework is strongly advised to help students develop the habits of mind necessary for academic and professional success.

The Aquinas Academy High School curriculum is rigorous and may involve 1 ½ to 3 hours of homework each night. Students in the High School are discouraged from engaging in employment that interferes with their studies during the week, or that will consume more than 10 hours a week of their time. Students who choose to work are nonetheless accountable for meeting all academic requirements as scheduled.

Students who are absent from school are expected to make up the work they missed on a schedule arranged with their teachers. In the event of scheduled absences, students should request homework and class assignments and complete them before returning to school. My Backpack, accessible to students and parents through the school's website, is a helpful guide in obtaining the work missed during absences.

Honor Roll

At the end of each quarter the Academy publishes a list of middle and high school students who have qualified for the following honors:

- Summa Cum Laude – All A's in core subjects, B or higher in auxiliary subjects.
- Magna Cum Laude – A average, B or higher in all subjects.
- Cum Laude – B or higher in all subjects.

In determining the annual end-of-year honors award, the minimum level of honor roll that was attained in each of the first three quarters is awarded.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is a part of the pursuit of virtue. By academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism, students commit an injustice against others, and harm themselves.

An offense against academic honesty may be committed by:

- Cheating on a test or quiz.
- Copying another student's homework.
- Plagiarism, or the unacknowledged borrowing of the work of another (often through internet sources).
- Using unauthorized aids for the completion of assignments, tests or quizzes.

Any incident of cheating or plagiarizing will be treated with the utmost gravity.

A first offense will lead to a failing grade on the assignment and parental notification. A second offense may result in a zero on the assignment. A third offense may result in failure for the marking period in which the offense occurs and a discussion about continued enrollment at Aquinas Academy.

Aquinas Academy realizes that the culture in which students live presents challenges to a proper understanding of academic honesty, especially plagiarism and copyright. Teachers will provide careful guidance to students in such matters and will discuss the nature of academic integrity with their students at appropriate times.

Academic Accountability and Extracurricular Activities

Middle and High Students must maintain passing grades in order to participate in *or attend* Aquinas Academy extracurricular activities. This includes, but is not limited to, school sponsored sports, social events, and fine arts events. If at any time in the grading period a student has a failing average (69% or lower, HS; 65% or lower, MS), it is the responsibility of the subject area teacher to notify the Assistant Head of School. The Assistant Head of School will then meet with the student who will be considered to be on Academic Probation and prohibited from participation in the above activities for a minimum of one week and until the student shows improvement and effort. If, after consultation between the teacher and the Assistant Head of School, improvement is not evident within one week, the process for academic probation may be repeated. Parents will be notified in writing when students are placed on Academic Probation.

Valedictorian

The honor of Valedictorian will be awarded to the graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade point average at the end of the third quarter of the senior year. The Valedictorian will have been a student in good standing with regular attendance for at least 3 years. Major infractions of the school's academic policies may jeopardize a student's class standing and eligibility for this honor.

Grading Scale

Lower School	Middle School	High School
A=90-100	A=92-100	A=93-100
B=80-89	B=83-91	B=85-92
C=70-79	C=74-82	C=77-84
D=65-69	D=65-73	D=70-76
F=Below 65	F=Below 65	F=Below 70

For the purpose of sending transcripts to colleges, high school honors and AP classes are weighted to raise a student's grade point average (GPA) to reflect the added work involved in completing these courses. Using a scale of 0-4 for the GPA, honors classes are increased 0.5 points and AP classes 1.0 points.

Middle/High School Computing Grades:

Teachers may use discretion in weighting the semester and final exams in the computation of first and second semester grades (15 – 25%). However, most typical is computation weighting the preceding two quarter grades at 40% each and the exam at 20% of the semester grade.

Final Course Grade:

First Semester: 50%

Second Semester: 50%

Final Grade: 100%

Academic Standing/Promotion and Graduation Requirements

1. If a student is failing a course at the first semester mid-term, the student's progress will be reviewed by the parents, teachers and Assistant Head of School.
2. If a student fails a subject for the academic year, he/she may be required to repeat that subject or an equivalent one approved by the Administration in summer school and successfully pass it to advance to the next grade the following school year.
3. Any student who fails two or more major courses is subject to academic review to determine whether he or she should continue at the Academy.
4. If failure occurs in a student's senior year, he/she must pass the subject before being certified as a graduate. The student must pass the subject in summer school. If there is no course available, the student must meet the Assistant Head of School's requirements.
5. Student work will be evaluated at the completion of eighth grade to determine readiness to continue at Aquinas Academy and gain admission into the high school. Students must have a minimum of a 2.0 (C average) in their 8th grade year in order to be admitted to the high school.

ATTENDANCE

Frequent absences and habitual tardiness are detrimental to a student and his studies. Therefore, regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students at Aquinas Academy.

Absence. In case of absence from school for illness or some other serious reason, parents should call the school office by 8:15 AM to inform the secretary of the student's absence. The parent must also provide a written excuse to the school office upon the student's return, providing the dates and reason for the absence. Students will be required to make up missed work on a schedule arranged with the teacher.

Participation in Athletics or After School Activities. Students who arrive at school after third period (10:15) may not participate in athletic events, in school activities, or after school activities. Exceptions will be made for excused appointments. WPIAL rules apply for high school.

Lateness. A student who arrives at school after 8:00 AM must report to the appropriate office to obtain a late slip in order to be admitted to class. Lateness will only be excused if a student's bus arrives late at school or if a parent has driven the student and checks in at the office after 8:00 am. Middle and High School students, likewise, must arrive at their classes through the day on time, or present a late slip from another teacher to be excused. Three unexcused tardies, and every tardy thereafter, per quarter will result in the assignment of detention. Students who drive themselves and who arrive late must check into the high school office upon arrival and it will be considered an unexcused tardy. Arrivals after 11:00 are considered a ½ day absence.

Senior Privilege. High school seniors who have a beginning or end-of-day study hall have the privilege to arrive in time for the second block class or depart after the third block class, as long as the student is in good academic standing and disciplinary standing.

Extended Absences. If parents wish to take students out of school for several days for personal reasons, it is their obligation to discuss the effects of their children's absence with the student's teachers and to arrange to make up all work which will be due upon their return to school. Middle and High School students must notify the Middle or High School Director and their teachers of the dates of their absence.

In the case of extended or frequent absence due to illness, students are responsible for homework assignments and lecture notes. Any student who misses 5 or more days in a given quarter is subject to review. A continued high rate of absenteeism may jeopardize a student's academic advancement, or even in the withholding of academic credit for the year since participation in classroom activities is an integral part of the curriculum. Since active class participation is essential to intellectual growth, students who are absent for extended periods are not eligible for academic awards at the end of the year.

Mid-Day Departures. Appointments for doctors, dentists, etc. should be arranged outside the school day whenever possible. If it is necessary to leave school during the day, a note signed by the parent is required which indicates the reason, the times of departure and the anticipated time of return. Parents must always sign their students out of school at the office and check them back in on their return. Any High School student who leaves campus for any reason during the school day without written permission from their parent and without signing out through the school office will be assigned an in-school suspension.

GENERAL POLICIES FOR AQUINAS ACADEMY STUDENTS

School Hours

School hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The Academy will not assume responsibility for students left at school after these hours. The Extended Day program runs from 3:15 until 5:45. Any lower school students on campus after 3:15 who are not athletes on campus for practice will be checked in to the Extended Day program, and parents will be charged accordingly.

Arrival at School

Students may enter the building at 7:30 AM but should only enter their classrooms once the teacher arrives. Coats should be placed in lockers or homerooms at the beginning of the day.

Entering and Leaving the Building

- Entering the building before school: When arriving at school, all students arriving by bus should enter through the doors appropriate for each of Kindergarten, Lower School, Middle School, or High School.
- Exiting the building at the end of school: After the closing bell, Lower School students who ride a bus will exit the building through the North entrance. Students who receive rides from parents will meet parents near the doors at the south end of the building. Caution must be observed in the parking lot at all times. Students should leave in an orderly fashion, following the directions of faculty supervisors.
- Leaving the building because of sickness: During the school day, any student who feels ill and cannot remain at school until dismissal should ask permission from his or her teacher to go to the office. A member of the office staff will then notify the student's parents. A parent or designee must come to the office and sign-out the student.

Visiting the School

With the exception of parents who drop their children at school in the morning, persons entering the school building should enter through the main entrance of Mross-McGonigle Hall and are required to ring the bell and sign in at the school office to obtain a visitor's tag upon their arrival and sign out when they depart. For security purposes, all doors in the buildings will remain locked during the school day. Only authorized personnel are able to enter the buildings from the outside without using the buzzer at the main entrance.

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled in the fall of the year. For the sake of order, if parents would like to visit classes at some other time, you may do so at the discretion of the classroom teacher and with the consent of the head of school.

Parents should avoid entering the classroom corridor at all times except to deliver their children to class at the beginning of the day. If you need to deliver something to your child during the school day it should be taken to the office, and the secretary will arrange to have it taken to your child's room.

Emergency Drills

In order to ensure their safety, students are to be silent during emergency drills. They are expected to be alert to instructions given by the faculty. They should walk to the designated exits in an orderly manner and leave the building as quickly as possible. More detailed exit instructions are posted in each room.

School Closings

In the event of a storm or other emergency that may prevent school attendance, families should listen to school closing announcements on WPXI, WTAE, & KDKA, or check the above websites. Please note there is another Aquinas Academy in Greensburg; therefore, listen for "Aquinas Academy - Gibsonia". Families may also check their email for notice of closings/delays.

Due to the fact that Aquinas Academy students arrive on buses from many different districts, the Academy will only have a delayed start if a significant number of districts are delayed. Please keep in mind that if your school district is delayed, busing to the Academy will be delayed accordingly. (For example, if North Allegheny School District (NA) announces a two-hour delay, the NA bus will pick up Aquinas Academy students two hours later than normal.) If your school district cancels school and Aquinas Academy is still in session, busing will not be provided to the Academy on that day. Students who arrive late or miss school entirely due to their district's delay or cancellation are excused and will be given time to complete missed assignments.

Parents who normally drive students to school are asked to use their best judgment on days of inclement weather. Safety should always be the first concern.

Medication Policy

Due to medical and liability concerns, school personnel will not be permitted to dispense any non-prescribed, over-the-counter medication, such as Tylenol or Advil without signed parental permission except as indicated on the emergency card (Grades 6 – 12 only). This also includes cough drops or throat lozenges. If cough drops are necessary, the student must bring a note signed by the parent requesting such. This note should be brought to the office in the morning before classes begin.

Prescribed medication should be taken at home, if possible. If necessary, with a written request, the Head of School or Secretary may administer such medication.

The physician's order shall specify the name of the drug, the dosage, the administration directive (such as three (3) times per day) and the duration of the order.

All prescribed medication must be brought to school in the original prescription bottle with proper druggist labeling of medication name, dosage, direction, and pharmacy identification. It must be left in the office. Unlabeled medication will not be given at school.

Injuries, of course, will continue to be treated with Band-Aids, ice packs and TLC.

Lost and Found/Uniform Exchange

Parents/students are expected to label all clothing and personal belongings. Lost articles will be available to reclaim at any time from the "Lost and Found." Unclaimed uniform items will be given to the uniform exchange at the end of the year. Non-uniform items will be kept in storage until the end of each month, at which time parents and students will have a final opportunity to claim them before they are donated to a worthy cause.

EXPECTED BEHAVIOR BY STUDENTS

Aquinas Academy students are expected to act and speak with Christian kindness and respect at all times. Students should strive to live the virtue of charity which helps to maintain friendliness and cooperation with the staff and fellow students.

In order to maintain an environment conducive to academic achievement and growth in virtue, students are asked to observe the following general guidelines for behavior.

Classrooms

Academy students are expected to maintain a mature demeanor in class, treating the teacher and fellow students with respect. It is the students' responsibility to cooperate with teachers in keeping classrooms neat and orderly. Individual teachers will have specific guidelines to be followed by all students in their classrooms. Food and drink is not to be consumed during classes.

Computer Use

Beginning in the third grade, students use computers at school, and many of the older students use computers at home regularly. Use at school is governed by the Policy for Acceptable Use, which older students and parents sign. Students may not bring laptops for use at school except with the express permission of a teacher for a particular project or presentation. Of particular note is the restricted use of the internet at school. Additionally, it is important for students to maintain their own integrity and respect the privacy of others in cyberspace. Students put themselves and others in danger when they post personal messages online. Parents are encouraged to monitor home use so as to avoid difficult situations where personal messages and information are hurtful to others. **Any student postings to internet sites that are slanderous or defamatory to Aquinas Academy students, staff, or administration will result in disciplinary action toward the student and may be prosecuted under the law.**

Outdoors

When students are outdoors during recess, field trips, dismissal, etc., there will be an adult in charge. Students are expected to show respect and concern for the safety of their peers at all times, and to cooperate with faculty and parent monitors in providing for this environment. Students must always exercise extreme caution in the parking lot for the safety of themselves and others, and must restrict themselves to play in designated areas only.

Cafeteria

Lunch period is a break from the classroom and should be a time of socializing and relaxation. Maintaining order is important during this time. Students may eat in designated areas only. After eating, students are to leave their places clean by placing all trash in the garbage cans. During the lunch period, **students should not leave the cafeteria without permission from the lunch room monitor.**

School Bus/Van

Acceptable behavior is based upon courtesy and respect. To ensure safety, the same standards and the rules for behavior during the school day extend to the bus/van. Additionally, students must remain seated in school vehicles at all times for their own safety, and the safety of others.

Student Lockers and Locker Rooms

1. All students in grades six through twelve will be assigned a locker. If individual students wish to keep their lockers locked, they may purchase a combination lock and submit the combination to the Middle or High School Director who will keep the combination on file in the office.
2. Students should not enter a locker which is not assigned to him/her without permission. Do not open or take anything from another student's locker.
3. Students should periodically clean out their lockers. Occasionally locker clean-outs and spot checks will take place to encourage and promote orderliness. Middle and High School Directors reserve the right to require students to remove any items of distasteful décor from the locker.

Telephone and Cell Phones

Students will not be permitted to use the office phones except for urgent matters. Arrangements for rides, etc.... should be made before coming to school. The school will call parents in the event of illness or schedule changes. Cell phones must be turned off and unavailable during the school day (7:45 until 3:15). Violation will result in detention as well as confiscation of the phone for the remainder of the day. "Smart Watches", which receive e-mail and text messages should likewise not be worn by students during the school day.

Respect for Property

Students are expected to respect the property of Aquinas Academy and the property of other students. Defacing or taking school property or the property of another student is a serious offense and may result in expulsion from the Academy. Personal items should be secured in lockers or on racks provided in each classroom.

Backpacks

Due to fire and safety concerns, backpacks must be placed out of walkways and left only in areas designated by the classroom teachers.

Textbook Guidelines

1. Students are expected to keep textbooks in good condition.
2. Fill in the label completely. (Please remember to label notebooks.)
3. Repair the book when necessary.
4. Cover the book immediately. Please do not use newspaper or contact paper or any other substance that will stick to the book's cover.
5. Refrain from writing in textbooks.
6. Students who lose or damage books beyond normal wear-and-tear must pay for replacements.
7. Students may retrieve lost books from the "Lost and Found". Lost books that cannot be recovered must be replaced.
8. Each student must bring his/her assignment notebook to every class.

Prohibited Items

The following items are prohibited on the school premises: weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products. Personal electronic devices may not be used during school hours from 7:45 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.

DRESS CODE

Ordinary dress at school is the school uniform which provides a variety of options, especially in the upper grades. When students are required to dress in their uniforms it is important that the guidelines for dress as stated in the handbook are followed, i.e., dress shoes and not sneakers or sandals, shirts tucked in neatly, etc.

There will occasionally be school functions where the uniform is not worn. Whether we are talking about uniformed dress or free dress at school functions, it is important to keep in mind the *spirit* of the dress code, rather than allow ourselves to get bogged down in questions of specific styles or articles of clothing. Uniformed dress demands that students conform to a set standard;

freedom of dress demands that they give thought to conforming to the demands of a social atmosphere with an attitude of respect and understanding – understanding for their own dignity as God’s creation and as temples of the Holy Spirit, as well as respect for others.

The *spirit* of the dress code as it should be observed everyday could be easily summarized as follows:

- Christian modesty applies to both men and women and is a virtue which must be cultivated in our lives and understood in the context of our culture. Immodesty is characterized by dressing in such a way that causes undue attention to be drawn to oneself.
- Students should never dress at school in a way that distracts themselves or others from the purpose of the day which is learning. Attitude and dress are related and casual dress tends to foster attitudes of leisure.
- Education is a privilege and the classroom is a place deserving of respect. We should always dress appropriately to any occasion, reflecting the respect the occasion deserves.
- Aquinas Academy students are privileged to attend Mass each day. Our appearance must reflect our belief that we are participating in a holy and sublime event each time we come into our Lord's presence to celebrate the holy sacrifice.
- Students should be freed from any tendency toward competition of dress while at school so they can focus their full attention on their studies.

Dress Code – Girls

Academy students are to be neatly attired for school, exhibiting good judgment and taste. Judgment in these matters is subject to the interpretation of the administration. Grooming should not include “faddish” hair styles (e.g. bleached, colored, etc.), tattoos, or body piercing, other than the ear. Earrings must be small and simple. Large hoops and draping earrings are not permissible. Necklaces may consist of a simple chain and pendant. Chokers, buttons, and wrist bands are not a part of the uniform. Uniforms should be clean and neat, **with shirts tucked in at all times. Faculty reserves final judgment on proper attire.**

Grades Kindergarten through 5th

School Plaid Jumper

White Polo Style Shirt or White Peter Pan collar Blouse (Short or long sleeved) or Turtleneck in White or Navy

Navy Dress Slacks

Navy or Red School Monogram Sweater (Cardigan or V-Neck)

Crew socks (short socks that cuff at the ankle) or knee socks in White or Navy

Opaque Tights in White or Navy

Ankle length navy leggings are permitted under skirts in the cold winter months

Dress Shoes (such as Mary Janes, Sperry’s, etc. that do not have a tennis shoe type sole; no ankle boots)

During September and May/June, uniform dress shorts in navy may be worn. These shorts must be purchased through the uniform providers only.

Grades 6th through 8th

White Oxford Dress Shirt

Turtleneck in White or Navy (Turtleneck may only be worn under oxford blouse)

School Plaid Skirt (3 types)

Navy Dress Slacks (see guidelines below)

Navy or Red School Monogram Sweater (Cardigan or V-Neck)

Navy V-neck vest with school logo

Socks worn with skirts must be KNEE SOCKS in White or Navy

(White or navy crew socks permissible with pants)

Opaque Tights in White or Navy

Dress Shoes (e.g., Sperry's, flats, or any shoe that does not have a tennis shoe type sole; no ankle boots)

* Makeup should be limited to a small amount of blush and/or lip gloss, and appropriate color nail polish

Grades 9th through 12th

White or Blue Oxford Dress Shirt

Turtleneck in White or Navy (Turtleneck may only be worn under oxford blouse)

Navy School Blazer OR Navy or Red V-Neck or Cardigan long sleeve Aquinas

Crest Sweater (Nov. 1 – Mar. 31)

School Skirt (Navy for fall and spring; Gray Nov. 1 – Mar. 31)

Navy V-neck vest with school logo

Khaki Dress Slacks (see guidelines below)

Socks worn with skirts must be knee socks in White, Gray or Navy

(White or Navy Crew socks permissible with pants)

Opaque Tights in White, Gray or Navy

Panty Hose (Plain)

Dress Shoes (e.g., Sperry's, flats, or any shoe that does not have a tennis shoe type sole; no ankle boots)

*Makeup use should be moderate and appropriate in color

Applies to all

Skirt length must be to the top of the knee. **Plain** white t-shirts may be worn underneath oxford shirts. Dress slacks do not include cargo or jean-style pants and should not be low-rise or tight fitting. High school pants are to be khaki in color (not "sand" or "putty"). Pants are to be alike in color and style to the uniform pants available through our uniform suppliers. Hiking boots, tennis shoes, sandals, clogs, open-toed or open-heeled shoes are not permitted. Dress shoes may be black, burgundy, brown or navy. **Moccasins and shoes that have a tennis shoe type sole are not permissible.**

Dress Code – Boys

Academy students are to be neatly attired for school, exhibiting good judgment and taste. Judgment in these matters is subject to the interpretation of the administration. Grooming should not include earrings or other piercing, neck chains, tattoos, decals, writing on skin, or “faddish” hair styles (e.g., bleaching, colored, half-shaved hair, etc.) Male students must be cleanly shaven and hair should be of moderate length, not covering the ears and no longer than the nape of the neck. Bangs must be above the eyebrow, and hair length should be no longer than 4” measured from the scalp. Uniforms should be clean and neat, **with shirts tucked in and ties properly tied at all times.**

Grades Kindergarten through 5th

White or Navy Polo Style or Oxford Dress Shirt (Short or long sleeved)

Navy School Monogram Sweater (Cardigan, Crew, or V-neck)

Navy School Monogram Vest

Dress slacks in Navy or Khaki

Socks in Navy, White or Black

Dress Shoes (e.g., oxfords, Sperry’s, loafers, etc.)

During September and May/June, uniform dress shorts in navy or khaki may be worn. These shorts must be purchased through the uniform providers only.

Grades 6th through 8th

White Oxford Dress Shirt (Short or long sleeved)

Navy School Monogram Sweater (Cardigan, Crew, V-neck)

Dress slacks in Navy or Khaki

Socks in Navy, White, Khaki or Black

Middle-School Tie (Regular or slip style)

Dress Belt and Shoes (e.g., oxfords, Sperry’s, loafers, etc.))

Grades 9th through 12th

White Oxford Dress Shirt (Short or long sleeved)

Navy Blazer (Worn from November 1 to March 31)

Navy lightweight vest may be worn with blazer if desired.

(Vest may not be worn other than with the blazer).

Dress slacks in Navy or Khaki

Socks in Navy, White, Khaki or Black

Upper-School Tie

Dress Belt and Shoes (e.g., oxfords, Sperry’s, loafers, etc.))

Applies to all

Plain white t-shirts may be worn underneath oxford shirts. Dress slacks do not include cargo or jean-style pants and should not be low-rise. Slacks are to be khaki in color (not “sand” or “putty”) and must be alike in color and style to the pants available through our uniform suppliers. Hiking boots, tennis shoes, sandals, open-toed or open-heeled shoes are not permitted. Dress shoes may be black, tan, burgundy or brown and should not have a tennis shoe sole.

Uniform Suppliers

Uniform items may be purchased through SchoolBelles or Land's End. In particular the plaid items and the middle school tie can only be purchased through SchoolBelles. More generic items may be purchased elsewhere. If items are not purchased through our suppliers, they must be equivalent in style and color. (e.g. Khaki is a deep tan, not a sand color). Monogrammed items may only be purchased through SchoolBelles.

SchoolBelles

(code # 2229)

4721 McKnight Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

(412)630-8480

www.schoolbelles.com

Lands' End Direct Merchants

Landsend.com/school

(800)469-2222

Aquinas Academy Preferred school

#9000-9100-0

(Catalog available in the office)

Gymnasium Uniforms (Boys and Girls)

For gym class, students are to wear **Aquinas Academy gym shorts, available to order through the Spirit Wear shop or SchoolBelles, and an Aquinas Academy team t-shirt or other Aquinas t-shirt.** Note that during the winter months, navy or black sweatpants may be worn. Lycra/Spandex running gear, yoga pants, and leggings are not acceptable gym wear. Proper gym shoes and socks are also required. Students not properly attired will still be required to participate in gym class wearing proper attire that will be lent to the student for that class period and will receive a reminder notice. For middle school and high school students, a dress code infraction will be issued when not in gym uniform. Three dress code infractions earn detention. **Students in grades 1 through 5 may wear their gym clothes to school on gym days and remain in those clothes throughout the day. Kindergarten wears play clothes on gym days.**

NOTE THAT THE STROBES FROM "LIGHT UP" SHOES CAN BRING ON SEIZURE ACTIVITY IN STUDENTS WITH CERTAIN HEALTH CONDITIONS AND SHOULD NOT BE WORN TO SCHOOL.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Aquinas Academy recognizes that good conduct of students in school promotes their education on campus, their overall growth in virtue and a positive social environment in which all students can thrive. All disciplinary issues are social in nature and therefore present both the offender and the offended with a challenge to grow in virtue through the exercise of humility and forgiveness. When disciplinary action becomes necessary, the best interest of all students involved is the foremost consideration.

In order to provide a positive social and academic environment, students are expected to always conduct themselves according to the general policies of the Academy and the specific policies of individual teachers. It is expected that the exercise of discipline will take place at the lowest possible level and will usually proceed as follows:

1. Verbal Reprimand
2. Discipline Slip
3. Detention
4. Suspension
5. Probation
6. Expulsion

A partnership between parents and the school in the discipline of children is essential. Parents can expect to be informed of any incident that involves more than a verbal reprimand, and are expected to address the issue at home. In the event of recurring or prolonged disciplinary issues, parents of Middle and High School students can expect to work with their student's advisor who will be in contact with the parents to devise mutual strategies to overcome the problem.

Detention

In the event of Dress Code infractions, the third violation slip and every one thereafter issued for any dress code infraction constitutes assigned detention. Likewise, for unexcused tardies (either to school or late to class), and other minor violations, the third violation slip and every additional tardy or minor violation constitutes detention.

For other infractions, students who have received two discipline slips in any given quarter will be assigned a detention. Detention will also be assigned for every discipline slip beyond the second slip in a quarter. Depending on the nature of the offense, the School Director reserves the right to deal with more serious issues at higher levels of discipline. This includes immediate detention, or suspension. For middle and high school students, detention will be arranged with the appropriate School Director. Detention may be served either before school from 7:10 - 7:55 AM, or after school from 3:15 - 4:00 PM. Students who have been assigned a detention are expected to serve their detention at the first opportunity after the detention is given. Only a legitimate excuse, in writing from parents prior to the assigned day and given to the detention proctor will permit students to serve their detention the following week.

Serving detention becomes the first obligation of the student and supersedes their participation in athletic or other after school activities. Students assigned to detention are expected to be prompt. Any student late for assigned detention will serve that day and the next detention day.

Students whose detentions accumulate beyond two un-served detentions in a row will serve in-school suspension.

Probation

Because of serious or frequent disregard of school directives, students may be placed on Probation. Probation is a period of time during which students have the opportunity to prove to the administration of the Academy that they are worthy to continue their studies. During this time parents are required to work with the administration and the student's advisor/teacher to facilitate the restoration of the student's status with the Academy.

Students placed on probation will not be allowed to participate in athletics or other school activities.

Suspension and Expulsion

In the event of a serious infraction of school policies during the school day or at school functions, students may be assigned either an in-school or out-of-school suspension, or even be asked to leave the Academy. In addition, any illegal or immoral student behavior outside of school which is serious in nature may subject the student to similar disciplinary actions.

The following are examples of offences which may merit either suspension or expulsion:

- ◆ Any action which puts another student in danger, or fear, of physical harm
- ◆ Physical aggression
- ◆ Continued harassment of peers
- ◆ Smoking on campus
- ◆ Continued academic dishonesty
- ◆ Foul or blasphemous language
- ◆ Misuse of school, or another student's property
- ◆ Vandalism
- ◆ Truancy
- ◆ Drug or alcohol use at any school function
- ◆ Possession of obscene materials on campus

Bullying

All students have a right to feel safe and respected at school. Students are expected to treat their classmates with charity and respect at all times. No student should be subject to actions or comments from classmates that make them feel threatened, belittled, excluded, or humiliated. Bullying takes on many forms, many of which are subtle and manipulative. Students can expect that any incidents of bullying will draw the attention of school administration and be appropriately dealt with on a disciplinary level. If a pattern of bullying persists once it has been addressed by teachers and administration, disciplinary action may include dismissal from the Academy. Parents can expect to be informed when your student is not treating others with respect. A cooperative spirit between home and school is the best means to teach students the importance of Christian charity and the emotional well-being of all persons. Education in faith demands charity in words and actions.

Aquinas Academy Policy on Gender Dysphoria

As Pope Benedict XVI stated regarding the “ecology of man,” “man too has a nature that he must respect and that he cannot manipulate at will.”

Pope Benedict has said that when “sex is no longer a given element of nature that man has to accept and personally make sense of, but instead is viewed as a social role that we choose for ourselves, human beings lose sight of an essential aspect of what being human is all about.”

When “people dispute the idea that they have a nature, given by their bodily identity, that serves as a defining element of the human being, then they deny the truth that male and female He created them.”

The implication, according to Pope Benedict, is that man rejects God as Creator and loses the sense of his own dignity and value. “When freedom to be creative becomes the freedom to create oneself, then necessarily the Maker himself is denied and ultimately man too is stripped of his dignity as a creature of God.” When human beings deny the truth about themselves, they deny the truth about God.

As stated by Pope Francis: “The acceptance of our bodies as God’s gift is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father. Thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation. Learning to accept our body, to care for it and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology. The manipulation of nature, which we deplore today where our environment is concerned, now becomes man’s fundamental choice where he himself is concerned. From now on there is only the abstract human being, who chooses for himself what his nature is to be. Man and woman in their created state as complementary versions of what it means to be human are disputed. But if there is no pre-ordained duality of man and woman in creation, then neither is the family any longer a reality established by creation.”

Aquinas Academy follows this teaching in the conviction that the mission of a Catholic school includes the integral formation of the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. The whole person includes the student's attitudes, dispositions, and behaviours, of which the very complex area of human sexuality is a part. As a Catholic institution, we believe that our bodies are gifts from God, and temples of the Holy Spirit. We believe that human sexual behaviour is only properly oriented to the ends of love and life in the context of a sacramental marriage. We believe that the body and soul are intimately united: the body does not contain the soul, like water in a glass, but rather holistically and naturally expresses who we are in the order of creation as physical/spiritual beings.

We believe that the sexes are complementary, and that "male and female He made us." Our given biological sex is part of the divine plan. The Church teaches that sexual identity is "a reality deeply inscribed in man and woman" that is rooted in one's biological identity, and that a person "should acknowledge and accept his sexual identity." Biological identity and sexual identity are never disagggregated. Both are gifts from God for us to perfect and bring into harmony according to his plan and guidance. They are not ours to reject, or to change outside of their proper functioning at our own will, because we believe God has made a mistake which we must correct.

Aquinas Academy, like all Catholic schools, understands truth to be the state in which the mind is in conformity with reality: a reality which entails the fullness of God's creation and divine plan. We also affirm that reality is knowable through the use of properly functioning senses and reason, as well as through the aid of divine revelation.

In this context, a student who wishes to express a gender other than his or her biological sex is understood as operating outside of the "reality deeply inscribed" within. Assisting the child in his or her disconnect with this reality — however sincerely experienced — by agreeing to participate in the child's efforts to change gender expression, is contrary to the pursuit of the truth. Authentic love, a gift of the self for the good of the other, requires that we compassionately dwell in the truth, and assist those we love to do the same. We will lovingly accompany the student through the inherent challenges of this situation, but in the fullness of love, must also insist upon integrity between reality and comportment for the good of the child, and for the common good.

Authentic Good for All Students

Once properly situated in the broad context of a school's Catholic mission, particular efforts to work respectfully and holistically from within a Catholic context and culture with students who may be engaging in expressions of sexuality contrary to Church teaching can be better understood. Because the Church teaches that *for all its students* sexual activity is only properly exercised toward the ends of both love and life in the context of a valid marriage, Catholic schools must be willing to secure the authentic good of their students, regardless of secular pressures. If students and families want to pursue a competing concept of the good, that is, of course, their right; but Catholic schools do not need to provide, nor accommodate, a competing version of the good. It is our right and our responsibility to live the truth with love in complete fidelity to Christ and his Church.

For all of these reasons, the use of bathroom and locker room facilities and participation on single-sex athletic teams at Aquinas Academy shall correspond to the student's biological sex at birth.

AQUINAS ACADEMY

2019-2020

August

21, 22, 23

Teacher In-Service

26

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

January

2

SCHOOL RESUMES

15

Last Day of 2nd Quarter

September

2

NO SCHOOL – Labor Day

20

NO SCHOOL – MLK Day

October

14

NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day
(Teacher In-Service)

24

NO SCHOOL – March for Life

25

Last Day of 1st Quarter

February

17

NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day
(Teacher In-Service)

November

1

NO SCHOOL – All Saints' Day
(Clerical Day)

March

19

Last Day of 3rd Quarter

11

NO SCHOOL – Veteran's Day
Parent-Teacher
Conferences
(ALL GRADES)

20

NO SCHOOL
(Clerical Day)

April

9-17

NO SCHOOL – Easter Break

27

Half Day – Noon Dismissal

20

SCHOOL RESUMES

28-29

NO SCHOOL –
Thanksgiving Break

May

21

NO SCHOOL – Ascension

23

High School Graduation

December

2

School Resumes

25

NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day

23- Jan. 1

NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break

27

LAST DAY OF LOWER SCHOOL
AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

28

Middle School Graduation

29

LAST DAY OF HIGH SCHOOL
Half-Day 11:30am Dismissal

ATHLETICS and EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletic programs at Aquinas Academy. Please see the Athletic Handbook that follow for the sports offered at each grade level.

In addition to athletics, students are encouraged to participate in other extracurricular activities at Aquinas Academy which include:

Prefect Board	Grades 9 through 12
Students of Service (SOS)	Grades 9 through 12
Newspaper (Dumb Ox)	Grades 9 through 12
Yearbook	Grades 6 through 12
Drama	Grades 6 through 12
Lower and Middle School Band	Grades 4 through 8
High School Band or Choir	Grades 9 through 12
Honey Bees Girls' Club	Grades 1 through 3
Art of Living Girls' Club	Grades 4 through 5
Vivat Vita (Pro-Life Club)	Grades 6 through 12
Chapel Choir	Grades 6 through 12
Chess Club	Grades K through 12
Robotics	Grades 4 through 12
Spirit Club	Grades 9 through 12

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it
known that

anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought
thine

intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly
unto thee,

O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I
stand, sinful

and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my
petitions,

but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

PRAYER OF SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS
THANKSGIVING AFTER MASS

Lord, Father all-powerful and ever-living God, I thank You, for even though I am a sinner, your unprofitable servant, not because of my worth but in the kindness of your mercy, You have fed me with the Precious Body & Blood of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that this Holy Communion may not bring me condemnation and punishment but forgiveness and salvation. May it be a helmet of faith and a shield of good will. May it purify me from evil ways and put an end to my evil passions. May it bring me charity and patience, humility and obedience, and growth in the power to do good. May it be my strong defense against all my enemies, visible and invisible, and the perfect calming of all evil impulses, bodily and spiritual. May it unite me more closely to you, the One true God, and lead me safely through death to everlasting happiness with You. And I pray that You will lead me, a sinner, to the banquet where you, with Your Son and Holy Spirit, are true and perfect light, total fulfillment, everlasting joy, gladness without end, and perfect happiness to your saints. Grant this through Christ our Lord,

AMEN.



Student/Parent Athletic Handbook

1st – 12th Grades
2019-2020

Head of School: Mrs. Leslie Mitros

Assistant Head of School: Mr. Michael Burchill

Athletic Director: Mr. James Richthammer

Assistant Athletic Director: Mr. Tyler Deschamps

Telephone: (724) 444-0722

E-mail: richthammer@aquinas.pvt.k12.pa.us

Fax: (724) 444-0750

Website: www.aquinasacademy-pittsburgh.org

Athletic Program Overview

The interscholastic sports program consists of opportunities for high school, middle school, and lower school athletes.

The high school girls' field hockey, boys' soccer, girls' soccer (through a cooperative agreement with Vincentian Academy), girls' and boys' cross-country (through a cooperative agreement with Vincentian Academy), boys' football (through a cooperative agreement with Vincentian Academy), boys' and girls' basketball, and girls' lacrosse teams compete in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (District 7), commonly known as the PIAA. The Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (W.P.I.A.L.) is the branch of the PIAA that includes Aquinas Academy. The girls' golf team currently competes in exhibition matches in the Fall. The boys' lacrosse team competes in exhibition matches in the Spring. The boys' and girls' track teams compete in exhibition meets in the Spring. The boys' fencing team competes in the high school independent fencing league.

The lower and middle school soccer, cross country, basketball, and track teams compete in the Diocese of Pittsburgh leagues. The middle school girls' field hockey and lacrosse teams play an independent schedule against local public and private schools.

1st and 2nd grade soccer is offered at the instructional level in the Spring, with a tournament for the 1st and 2nd grade soccer teams at the end of the Spring season.

Athletic Programs Offered

Fall

High School – Boys' Soccer
Girls' Field Hockey
Boys' and Girls' Cross-Country (co-op with V.A.)
Boys' Football (co-op with Vincentian Academy)
Girls' Soccer (co-op with Vincentian Academy)
Girls' Golf

Middle School – 6th - 8th Grade Co-Ed Soccer
6th – 8th Grade Girls' Field Hockey
6th – 8th Grade Boys' and Girls' Cross-Country

Lower School – 3rd - 5th Grade Co-Ed Soccer
3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Cross-Country

Winter

High School – Boys' Basketball
Girls' Basketball
Girls' and Boys' Fencing
Swimming (Independently)

Middle School – 6th - 8th Grade Boys' Basketball
6th - 8th Grade Girls' Basketball

Lower School – 3rd - 5th Grade Boys' Basketball
3rd - 5th Grade Girls' Basketball

Spring

High School – Girls' and Boys' Lacrosse
Girls' and Boys' Track

Middle School – 6th - 8th Grade Co-Ed Soccer
6th – 8th Grade Girls' Lacrosse
6th – 8th Grade Track

Lower School – 5th Grade Girls' Lacrosse
3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Boys' and Girls' Track
1st – 5th Grade Co-Ed Soccer

Aquinas Academy Athletics

At Aquinas Academy, athletics are an important part of a well-rounded education, in part because they contribute to physical fitness, but even more so for what they can teach. Through athletics, students learn that hard work, perseverance, sportsmanship, and teamwork count as much as winning.

Every Aquinas Academy student is encouraged to participate in athletics. Even students who are not athletically inclined can choose an appropriate sport, and work with a coach to gain satisfaction in meeting the sport's physical and mental challenges. Aquinas Academy has a "no-cut" policy that gives athletes the opportunity to participate without fear of not making the team. The school's "no-quit" policy ensures athletes will follow through with their commitments and guarantees a team will not lose players.

No Cut Policy

Any student that wishes to participate will not be cut from any team because they are not "good enough". Students will be able to participate on any team without fear of being asked not to play due to their ability or lack of knowledge. In the event that a team has too many participants, a second team will be added to the schedule to allow every participant the opportunity to play. The first team (varsity) will be composed of the more competitive and able athletes, while the second team (junior varsity) will be made up of those athletes that need more development. The coaches of the teams will decide who plays on which team.

No Quit Policy

Once a student begins a commitment, he/she must finish the commitment. Therefore, any student that makes a commitment to a team will not be permitted to quit the team in the middle of a season. This holds students accountable and ensures they do not stop playing because things get too difficult. Students must fulfill

their commitment to the team. When a season ends, students are not obligated to participate the following year.

There will be a probation period for those students that have joined and are no longer academically eligible. When the students' grades have improved they will continue to participate for the remainder of the season.

Commitment Policy

Students are expected to fulfill their commitment to the team by attending all practices, games, and meetings during the designated season. If a student is unable to attend an event, he/she must notify the coach and/or athletic director as soon as possible. Students that are not excused from events will not be able to participate in the next contest. (They must attend the event, but they will not be able to play.) Students must balance their academic load. Therefore, skipping a practice or game due to homework or studying for a test is considered an unexcused absence. Illness and a death in the family are examples of excused absences. Limiting unexcused absences will help the student become a better athlete, learn time-management, and help the team develop. If a student is injured it is expected he or she will attend practices and games as he or she is part of the team and can learn valuable insights by watching. Athletes need to make choices and set priorities. Dealing with the consequences for those decisions will help an athlete grow in virtue and draw closer to God.

Grade Eligibility

Students who are failing will not be permitted to participate in practices or games until they have brought their grades up to a D.

This policy will help students see that academics are a priority and they must learn to balance the academic workload with the rigors of athletics.

Students will be given a one-week probation period in order to improve their grade and once again be eligible to play. If a student is still ineligible to play, they will have another one-week

probation period until they improve. Ineligible students will not be able to attend any practices or games.

Sportsmanship Policy

Aquinas Academy continually expects students, athletes, coaches, and parents to behave in a sportsmanlike manner.

Aquinas Academy students, athletes, coaches, and parents shall, at all times, represent themselves and their school with proper conduct, integrity, and good sportsmanship. They must understand that competitive rivalries are encouraged but, disrespect toward opponents, officials, coaches, or fans will not be tolerated and runs contrary to the philosophy and mission of this school. Student athletes shall fully comply with the rulings of the officials, and in no way, either by voice or gesture, demonstrate dissatisfaction with decisions that are made.

As representatives of their school, Aquinas Academy students, athletes, coaches, and parents shall conduct themselves in the proper manner at all times, both as spectators and athletic participants.

Gender Policy

Aquinas Academy recognizes the differences between male and female. Whenever possible, Aquinas Academy will have single gender teams.

Sports Physical Exams

Under PIAA By-Laws, all athletes must have a physical examination by a licensed physician before beginning practice. Student/athletes must acquire **ONE** physical per year in order to be eligible for interscholastic sports competition. However, if a student is injured, he/she will be required to obtain a follow-up physical prior to the next sport's season he/she will participate. **Physicals must be acquired no more than six (6) weeks prior to the first practice** of each season except for the fall sports season when physicals can be done after June 1. No athlete will be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics for Aquinas

Academy until the PIAA Physical Examination Form is turned into the head coach or the athletic director. This form can be picked up in the office or downloaded from the PIAA website (www.piaa.org) under forms. Please note: this is a mandatory requirement in order to participate in athletics.

Transportation to Games

Transportation to home games is the responsibility of the parents.

Transportation to away games for all high school events and for middle school events after school is the responsibility of the school. Parents are expected to transport non-high school athletes to all away events on the weekend, unless transportation is available.

Students cannot transport other students to events unless parent permission is granted.

Playing Time

1st through 4th Grades

At this level, the sports program is offered as an introduction to athletics and its focus is developmental. Basic skills and fundamentals shall be taught. Playing time in games should be equal.

5th and 6th Grades

Every student should have a place to play and playing time should be as equal as possible. All students should have a team available even if it means adding a second team.

7th and 8th Grades

Teams may be formed on the basis of player proficiency, allowing players to compete at a level appropriate to their development. Although playing time may not be equal in all contests, it is recommended that all athletes play as much as possible.

High School

Students have a right to practice time, but playing time is earned. The more competent players will see more playing time to ensure the highest level of competition.

Playing time issues are first and foremost a matter that should be discussed between athlete and coach. The player has a right to know how more playing time can be achieved, no matter how difficult the process. Parents should not be part of this discussion, as well as other athletes.

Athletic Fees

An athletic fee will be assessed for all participants in the athletic program. These fees will be collected via the FamilyID website where registration for teams will also take place. You can access the site at familyid.com. The athletic fee must be paid in full in order to participate during the season. The early bird fee schedule for the 2018-2019 season is (regular and late fees will be added):

Lower and Middle School

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Sport</i>	<i>Season</i>	<i>Fee</i>
1st and 2nd co-ed	Soccer	Spring	\$25
3 rd , 4th, 5th, and 6th grade boys and girls	Cross Country	Fall	\$25
3rd and 4th co-ed	Soccer	Fall Spring	\$50 \$50
3rd and 4th boys and girls	Basketball	Winter	\$50
3 rd , 4th, 5th, and 6th grade boys and girls	Track	Spring	\$25
5th and 6th grade girls	Field Hockey	Fall	\$75

5th and 6th grade boys and girls	Basketball	Winter	\$175
5th and 6th grade co-ed	Soccer	Fall Spring	\$75 \$75
7th and 8th grade co-ed	Soccer	Fall Spring	\$75 \$75
7th and 8th grade boys and girls	Cross Country	Fall	\$25
7th and 8th grade girls	Field Hockey	Fall	\$75
7th and 8th grade boys and girls	Basketball	Winter	\$175
5 th – 8 th grade girls	Lacrosse	Spring	\$175
7 th and 8 th grade boys and girls	Track	Spring	\$25
High School			
Boys	Soccer	Fall	\$175
Girls	Field Hockey	Fall	\$175
Girls	Golf	Fall	\$100
Boys / Girls	Basketball	Winter	\$225
Boys / Girls	Fencing	Winter	\$100
Girls	Lacrosse	Spring	\$225
Boys / Girls	Track	Spring	\$150

Policy for Adding New Sports

Aquinas Academy will add new sports to the athletic program when there is sufficient interest, when there are enough participants to offer the new sport as well as existing sports, and when the Athletic Director and Board believe that it is in the best interest of Aquinas Academy.

Athletic Awards

Varsity Letter A letter will be awarded to any high school student who participates in half or more of the games at the varsity level in a given season.

Middle School: A pin and pennant will be awarded to any student that participates on any of the teams offered.

The Sportsmanship Award - The Aquinas Academy Sportsmanship Award honors student-athletes in 7th – 12th grades who, through their actions in the competitive arena of athletics, have demonstrated one or more of the ideals of sportsmanship, including fairness, civility, honesty, unselfishness, respect and responsibility. The award is chosen by the coach and athletic director and is given to that student-athlete who is outstanding in the display of sportsmanship during the year.

The Most Valuable Player Award - The Aquinas Academy Most Valuable Player Award honors student-athletes in 7th – 12th grades who, through their actions in the competitive arena of athletics, have had the most positive influence on their team through their superior performance, willingness to always boost the spirits of team members, and their continued leadership in practice and during games. The award is chosen by the coach and athletic director and given to that student-athlete who if he or she were removed from the team, the team's ability to contend would change drastically and has leadership skills that take his teammates to a higher level.

The Most Improved Player Award - The Aquinas Academy Most Improved Player Award honors student-athletes in 7th – 12th grades who, through their actions in the competitive arena of athletics, have shown the most positive growth over the course of a season in their respected sports. The award is chosen by the coach and the athletic director and is given to that student-athlete that has demonstrated a new understanding of the sport both in terms of their mental knowledge of the game and their ability to play at a new level from the start of the season.

The Scholar-Athlete Award –The Aquinas Academy Scholar Athlete Award is given annually to those scholar-athletes in 6th – 12th grades that have maintained a minimum GPA of 3.5, as well as, show outstanding leadership as an athlete, as a student, and in other scholastic endeavors. The scholar-athlete award is chosen by the coaches and athletic director and is given to athletes that maintain high academic standards along with a willingness to do their best in the arena of athletics.

Aquinas Academy Crusader Senior Letterman Award – The Aquinas Academy Crusader Senior Letterman Award honors student-athletes that have participated in their senior year. The award recognizes the sport participated in, the year or years of participation, and individual and team accomplishments of seniors throughout their athletic career.

The Outstanding Athlete of the Year Award - The Aquinas Academy Outstanding Athlete of the Year Award is given annually to the scholar-athlete in the high school that continually demonstrates superior performance in the sport or sports he/she has participated in. The award is chosen by the coaches and athletic director and is given to one male and one female athlete in the high school that strives to reach his/her potential in all aspects of competitive sports participation and makes a positive impact on their respective team or teams. (This award can only be received once during a student's four years in the high school.)

2019-2020 AAPA Events and Activities

The following information is provided so that you may have some idea about the events held throughout the school year. Some of these events are organized and run by parents at Aquinas, and some are coordinated by the faculty and students. The list is not all-inclusive.

The AAPA makes sure that parent run events have a chair, co-chair and volunteers to help with the event. We are greatly appreciative of all the families that step up to the challenge of volunteering at these many events!

Specific classroom events and projects are not addressed in this material since individual classrooms will have their own sign-up sheets for activities.

July

Uniform Swap - Families are encouraged to donate uniforms that are in good condition. Families are encouraged to take any uniforms as needed. We will offer the swap in July. If you are in need of uniforms and want to see what we have in storage, feel free to contact the chair, Tina Rossi.

August

New Parent Orientation (K - 5) - Monday, 8/19/19

Freshman and New Student High School Orientation - Tuesday, 8/20/19

Middle School Parent Night - Wednesday, 8/21/19

High School Retreat - This high school overnight retreat will be held at Jumonville, and will be chaperoned by the high school teachers.

Date: 8/29/19 and 8/30/19

September

Parent Night - Parents are invited to attend a "glimpse" into their child's day. Parents follow their student's schedule, visiting various classrooms and meeting the teachers. Teachers provide key information such as, teaching materials, expectations, etc. for the new school year. AAPA will speak about the upcoming events for the school year and encourage families to sign up to volunteer at these events. Sheets will be available for all families to sign up. Lower school classrooms will have sign-up sheets for homeroom coordinator, library help, field trip chaperones, classroom volunteers for parties, and party supplies.

Dates: Lower School - Thursday, 9/5/19

High School - Wednesday, 9/4/19

(Middle School Teachers will be presenting on the Middle School Parent Night on 8/21/19)

Fall Family Festival - Join other Aquinas families for a picnic on Dolan Field. Hamburgers and hot dogs are provided. Everyone is asked to bring a side or dessert to share. Plan for an afternoon with food, family, fun and much more.

Date: 9/29/19

AAPA Meeting (usually three per year) - We alternate evening and daytime meetings to accommodate all parents. All parents preschool-12th grade are encouraged to join us for the first meeting of the school year. Leslie Mitros, Head of School, gives updates and any committee chairs as well. The first meeting is an evening wine and cheese meeting with childcare provided.

Date: 9/18/19

October

Stratford Shakespeare Festival - Upperclassmen attend three shows in two days in Stratford, Ontario. Cost of this trip is \$350 and reservations are required well ahead of time.

Date: 10/4/19 and 10/5/19

MS Fall Festival - 6th, 7th & 8th graders participate in a chaperoned costume party. They enjoy friends, food and games. **Prefect Board organizes this event.

Date: TBA

Homecoming Dance - for High School students, held in the Rhodora

Date: 10/26/19

All Saints Day Celebration - K through 5th grade and parents join us as we celebrate All Saints Day. Preceding mass, students will dress up as a saint of their choice and say a few words about that saint. MS & HS have their own activities. Students and families will also receive a name of someone for whom to pray during the month of November.

Date: 10/31/19

November

High School Fall Athletic Awards - Recognizing high school athletes in soccer, field hockey, football, and cross-country.

Thanksgiving Feast - Kindergarten and their families celebrate their thankfulness with a play and feast. Parents together plan a feast to be shared! What a great way to get to know one another!

December

HS Play - *This year's production is*

Date: 11/22/19 and 11/23/19

Junior/Senior River City Brass and Concert - Students will receive details of this event as the date draws closer.

Date: TBA

Beginner and Advanced Band Christmas Concert - Students in the Aquinas Academy Band Program from grades 4 through 8 will perform in the Rhodora.

Date: TBA

Christmas Pageant - K-5th grade participates in the Christmas Pageant. Come see our talented children recreate the birth of our Lord. Listen to the beautiful voices sing songs taught by our music teacher Mrs. Heagy. A must see annual tradition at Aquinas!

Date: 12/13/19

January

8th Grade Confirmation Retreat - 8th grade students celebrate mass and then a special day of reflection and talks off-campus. Includes a luncheon.

Aquinas Academy Ski Club - All families are welcome to join us at Hidden Valley. Students 6th grade and up are permitted to attend without a parent. Ski trips begin around the 2nd week in January and continue for 5 Friday evenings depending on conditions. Bus leaves Aquinas parking lot at 2:45 and returns around 10:30. Registration and information on the cost will be sent home to parents.

March for Life - Students and parents may join in the parking lot of Aquinas for a one-day bus trip to Washington, DC for the annual March for Life.

Date: 1/24/20 (Note no school)

Feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas - Kindergarten-12th and parent chaperones enjoy part of their school day either at Fun Fest for lower school, Pines Plaza for bowling middle school, and ice skating at North Park for our high school students.

Date: Celebrated on 1/28/20

February

AAPA Meeting - All parents preschool-12th grade are encouraged to join us for the second meeting of the school year. This will be a nightly meeting about an hour. Leslie Mitros, Head of School, gives updates and any committee chairs as well. Children and infants are welcome! Date: TBD

Father/Daughter Dance - The favorite event from last year is back! Girls in grades K-8 attend an amazing night dancing with their fathers. Date: TBD

Mother/Son Game Night - Corn hole, board games, and other contests for mom and son to compete on the same team or against each other! Date: TBD

March

Night at the Races/Chili Fest - Adult social to beat the winter-time blues! Held in the Rhodora and sponsored by AAPA.

Date: 3/7/20

2nd Grade First Holy Communion Retreat - 2nd grade students participate in a day of preparation off campus for their First Holy Communion. Activities, prayer, lunch and a talk with a visiting priest round out this beautiful day of reflection.

MS Play - A Middle School production performed by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. The entire student body and families are invited to attend the weekend performances.

Date: 3/27/20 and 3/28/20

May

High School Spring Formal Dinner Dance - 8th-12th grade students are invited to attend this end of year dinner dance.

Date: TBA

HS Spring Athletic Awards - High school students and families are invited to attend an evening of celebration for their team efforts.

AAPA meeting - All parents preschool-12th grade are encouraged to join us for the last meeting of the school year. We meet during the school day for about an hour. This will be a thank you lunch for all the Aquinas volunteers. Leslie Mitros, Head of school, gives us updates and any committee chairs as well. Children and infants are welcome!

May Crowning Mass and luncheon - 2nd grade First Communicants and their families participate in this traditional May Crowning Ceremony at Mass. Following the Mass there is a luncheon in the cafeteria provided by the 3rd grade class parents.

MS Athletic Awards - Middle school students and families are invited to attend an evening of celebration for their team efforts.

Lower School Awards - K-5th grade students and parents attend an awards ceremony in the gymnasium on the last day of classes, followed by Mass and dismissal for the year!

Date: 5/27/20

HS Academic Awards - 9th -12th grade students and parents attend an evening to celebrate their academic achievements.

Date: 5/22/20

Senior Graduation Ceremony - Graduating seniors, high school students, family and faculty all attend this ceremony honoring our senior class for their achievements as they graduate from Aquinas Academy.

Date: 5/23/20

8th Grade Graduation Reception and MS Academic Awards - 8th grade students and families are invited to attend an evening in their honor. Graduation follows the middle school awards.

5/28/20

June

Annual Kennywood Day - To kick off summer, all students and their families meet at the Aquinas pavilion on Kennywood Day!

**Aquinas Academy Parents Association Directory
(AAPA)**

Jennifer Dingle and Wendy Karem – Lower School Co-Chairs
– Middle School Co-Chair

Sandi Giacobbe and Janine Vella – High School Co-Chairs

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

ALLEGHENY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

300 Pearl Street
Cheswick, PA 15024
Phone: 724-274-6500
NO BUS ON HALF DAYS

AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412-369-8738
First Student
412-734-9288 of 412-537-4777
NO BUS ON HALF DAYS

DEER LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 10
17 East Union Road
Russelton, PA 15076-0010
Contact: Gary Dixon
724-265-5300 x 1218
W.L. Roenigk 724-226-1141

FOX CHAPEL SCHOOL DISTRICT

611 Field Club Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
Contact: Linda Casile
412-967-2423
ABC Transit
412-828-9000
BUSSING ON HALF DAYS

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

4591 School Drive
Allison Park, PA 15101
Contact: Diane Balint
412-492-6316
Monark Bus Co. 724-444-7766
BUSSING ON HALF DAYS

MARS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

545 Route 228
Mars, PA 16046
Contact: Jane Roth
724-625-1507
Fax: 724-625-1060
A.J. Meyers & Sons
724-625-2032

NO BUSSING ON HALF DAYS

NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

200 Hillvue Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Contact: Laura Hayes
412-369-5500

NO BUSSING ON HALF DAYS

KINDERGARTEN ONE WAY UNLESS SIBLING

NORTH HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

135 6th Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
Contact: Gloria Maurer
412-318-1024

Bus Garage: 412-847-5057

NO BUSSING ON HALF DAYS

PINE RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

702 Warrendale Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044-6040
724-625-7773 ext. 6200
Contact: Kim Charney

Student Transportation of America (STA)

Contact: Colleen McAndrew
724-502-4614

BUSSING ON HALF DAYS

PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

341 S. Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Etna A1 Van 412-781-6170
Roenigk, McKees Rocks 412-331-3974
Stars Office: 412-622-3882

BUSSING ON HALF DAYS

QUAKER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

100 Leetsdale Industrial Drive
Suite B

Leetsdale, PA 15056

Contact: John Demkowicz

724-318-8535

NO BUSSING ON HALF DAYS

SENECA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

152 Seneca School Road

Harmony, PA 16037

Contact: Mr. James Pearson

724-631-1758

Valley Lines Bus Co.

724-432-3404

NO BUSSING ON HALF DAYS

SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1800 Mount Royal Boulevard

Glenshaw, PA 15116

412-492-1200 x2824

Contact: Linda Robertson

Bus Garage

412-821-0323

BUSSING ON HALF DAYS

SOUTH BUTLER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

328 Knoch Road

Saxonburg, PA 16056

Contact: Joyce

724-352-1700 x1604

W.L. Roenigk Bus Co.

724-353-1515

BUSSING ON HALF DAYS