



# 2023-2024

# Family Handbook

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Davenport, IA 52804  
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[www.trinitydavenport.org](http://www.trinitydavenport.org)



# Trinity Lutheran School

1122 West Central Park  
Davenport, Iowa 52804  
(563) 322-5224

**Our vision: Let's Go - With Jesus, For others, Into the world.**

**We value:**

**Christ**—Preparing children for eternity

**Character**—Preparing children for relationships

**Curriculum**—Preparing children for life

**Community**—Preparing children to serve

Trinity Lutheran School provides an excellent education to families who want their children educated in a warm Christian atmosphere by caring, committed Christian teachers. Trinity is part of the largest Protestant Christian school system in the U.S., with over 2500 schools at the preschool, elementary, secondary, and collegiate level. For over 100 years our Lutheran schools have helped children prepare for life in this world while growing in their understanding and faith in Jesus as their Savior from sin. God gives to us all the gift of forgiveness through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. God shows this to us in the Holy Bible; this is the source of our understanding of the relationship between God and man.

Trinity Lutheran School offers the opportunity for children to receive instruction and training in five specific areas of development:

**Spiritual • Academic • Physical • Social • Emotional**

God has created each child as a unique person. Our curriculum is not simply academic teaching but is also an effort to nurture Christian relationships, both with God and with each other. Our prayer is that students leaving Trinity have grown close to the Lord, with a connection to Him strong enough to withstand the world's challenges.

Formal schooling is only one part of a child's education. We will work with you to contribute to your child's complete growth and development.

Although our curriculum is based on standards developed by national, state, and local education institutions, our faith in Christ is integrated into every aspect of instruction. As we teach, we reveal God's handiwork in the order of creation, the complexities of mathematics, the gift of language, and the beauty of the fine arts.

Trinity Lutheran School operates as a ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church and is governed by the policies of the School Ministry Team of Trinity Lutheran Church.

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# TRINITY INVITES YOU . . .

Trinity Lutheran Church invites everyone to join us in everything our ministry has to offer. We offer worship services on Sunday mornings, a Saturday service, as well as Wednesday evening services during Advent and Lent. We join together to praise our God in word and song, confess our failings, receive the Good News of forgiveness through Christ Jesus, are fed by His Word and Sacrament, and join together in prayers of thanks and help for ourselves, each other, and all those in need.

Trinity offers numerous opportunities to grow in faith through the study of God's word through numerous Bible Studies throughout the year. We also offer many ways to put faith into action to impact the lives of others.

Trinity pastors and elders invite you to join us in worship, and are ready to meet the needs of school families. Should you have any questions about our church, including how to become a member, you are invited to call or stop by the church office (563) 323-8001, or ask your child's teacher for information. The principal and the pastors will also gladly answer your church or spiritual questions.

We are a family of believers, and we are delighted that you are a part of our family!

# OBJECTIVES

As an earthbound member of God's Kingdom, the child lives in concurrent relationships. He lives in relationship to God, to himself and his own God-given powers, to other people, and to all of God's creation (nature). The Christian teacher recognizes these relationships and works to assist parents in preparing the child for living in them. These relationships provide a valid framework for establishing the immediate objectives of the Lutheran elementary school.

## A. The child in relation to God: That the child develops...

1. A growing knowledge of the Triune God, a growing trust in Jesus Christ as the Savior from sin, and an increasingly worshipful, sanctified life.
2. A growing knowledge of the Holy Scriptures as the Word of Life, a proper understanding of Law and Gospel, an increased ability to apply God's Word to life situations, and a desire to gain and remember the blessings of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
3. An understanding of the nature, function, and responsibility of the church as the body of Christ, plus a willingness and ability to serve as an active member of this body and as a priest of God.

## B. The child in relation to himself and his Powers: That the child...

1. Develops knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors needed to function effectively as God's child (spiritual powers).
2. Understands his body and accepts responsibility for its health, safety, and recreation (physical powers).
3. Develops logical, scientific and creative thinking habits, gains knowledge and communication tools, and acquires significant elements of his cultural heritage (mental powers).
4. Develops social skills needed to live competently and creatively (social powers).
5. Understands and controls his emotions, finds security and a true picture of himself through firm reliance on God and trust in Christ, and practices Christian love toward all people (emotional powers).
6. Appreciates the beauties of nature and the fine arts and expresses himself in different arts media (aesthetic powers).

## C. The child in relation to other people: That the child...

1. Recognizes all people to be God's creation and shows respect, courtesy, and consideration for the rights and welfare of others.
2. Respects parents as God's representatives and appreciates his privileges and responsibilities as a member of an earthly family of which Christ is the Head.
3. Develops Christian social responsibility and cooperative skills.
4. Develops concern for the spiritual and material welfare of all people and shows this concern by witnessing and sharing his time, talents, and treasures.
5. Respects government as God-ordained and appreciates his privileges and responsibilities as a member of the local, state, national, and world community.
6. Develops the ability to discern and make God-pleasing decisions for his future life. Through discernment he can distinguish between being in the world and not of the world.

## D. The child in relation to nature: That the child...

1. Understands that God is the Creator, Ruler, and Preserver of nature.
2. Thanks and praises God for the gifts of nature.
3. Develops knowledge, attitudes, and conducts needed to understand, use, and care for God's gifts in nature.
4. Willingly uses nature to glorify God and serve people.

## **Missional Mandate**

“Equipping people to grow in Christ at home and go in service to the world”

## **TLS Mission Statement**

Trinity partners with families to provide a quality Christian education for children that meet spiritual, academic, physical, and emotional needs, equipping them to live as witnesses of God’s Word.

# HOW OUR SCHOOL WORKS

## School Hours

Classes begin promptly at 7:35 AM and dismiss at 2:35 PM each day. Preschool will be dismissed at 2:20. On certain days during the year the school will dismiss early. Please watch email communications and the Family Portal about busing on these early out days.

## Drop Off and Pick Up

We strive to make our drop off and pick up procedures as safe as expedient for all. When we all follow the procedures outlined, we are able to best ensure safety.

Please be respectful of other drivers and students arriving and being picked up.

During the school day the gates across the parking lot by Freedom Place playground will be closed. Drivers should plan to enter the parking lot only through the Central Park entrance during school hours.

\*\*\*Please drive at a reasonable speed when in the parking lot. Remember, children are present, and they can be unpredictable.

**Please help us keep all children safe!!**

## Morning Drop Off Procedures

Children are not admitted into the classrooms until 7:15 a.m. Students may be dropped off at 7:10, if necessary at the Gymnasium door where they will be supervised until 7:15. Your child should not be dropped off prior to that and left unsupervised.

1. The doors to the main entrance and the north door of the school will be locked until 7:15 a.m.
2. Traffic on the drive near the gym entrance will only travel one way - from south to north. Students arriving between 7:10 a.m. and 7:15a.m. have the following expectations:
3. The student must wait in the gym hallway where there is supervision. Waiting by the front doors or the office is prohibited.
4. No loitering is allowed in the bathrooms. Students are not allowed in the locker/shower areas of the bathrooms.
5. Recommended activities for students waiting in the gym hallway include: school work, reading, prayer, quiet meditation, and talking at a controlled level. Children are generally asked to be seated while waiting.
6. At 7: 15 a.m. a staff member will dismiss students from the waiting area. Students may then go to their lockers and classroom.
7. Any student who does not follow school rules during this time will lose the privilege to be dropped off early.

## Morning Shining Stars

Trinity will not be offering Morning Shining Stars for the 2023-2024 school year.

## Students arriving after 7:15

Families drop off at the door of their youngest student as follows:

- **North Wing Doors:** North Wing Preschool, Kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade (Must be walked to North Doors.) This means you will need to park your car so traffic flow can continue for the Main Doors. This is for the safety of all children. The north door is NOT a stop and drop location.
- **Main School Doors:** 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades and Preschool in Room 120 and 3 year olds on Tuesday and Thursday. Younger children can also be dropped off here if parents feel that stop and drop works better. See the map in the appendix for specifics of where to stop etc.
- **GYM Doors:** Grades 5-8 and all bus riders. Buses only use the upper lane. Cars must use the central lane for drop off.
- Parents are welcome to enter the building to visit the school office or make a quick stop to chat with a teacher. Please remember that teachers are busy welcoming their students in the morning and are gearing up for the day. Therefore early morning conversations should be brief. Teachers are available for lengthier conversations by appointment..

## After School Procedures

Early bus students are dismissed at 2:25. All other students are dismissed at 2:35 p.m.

Traffic flow in the afternoon departure time should follow the patterns established below:

1. **Preschool and Kindergarten:** The students who DO NOT have an older sibling in grades 1 - 8 will be dismissed to the North Doors (2E) at 2:20 p.m. and will remain outside (weather permitting) in the supervised, waiting area until their ride has parked. **(Students who have an older sibling will follow the plan for grades 1 - 8)**The waiting area is not to be used for active play. Students may only leave the waiting area when escorted by a parent. Drivers may park in the northeast parking lot or in the area between the office entrance and the north hallway entrance. Drivers are not allowed to park in the row of spaces immediately in front of the supervised waiting area. All drivers must pull into a parking space when picking up children.
  - a. The north entrance will be locked by the supervising teacher at 2:30 PM. At this time, any remaining preschoolers will be taken to the church narthex to wait to be picked up.
2. **1st – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade** students will be escorted to the appropriate dismissal area by faculty or staff for dismissal from the church or the gym. Parents will drive up to pick up their children, remaining in their vehicles. Each family will receive a sign to place in their window. A faculty or staff member in the parking lot will notify those inside that a family's ride has arrived. Once a family's name has been called, children will exit the building and safely go to their vehicle. Families who are carpooling must choose the family name to be used for the group for the year and exit from those doors for the whole year.
  - a. **Families with last names beginning A-K:** Dismiss from the church at 2:35 p.m. **All students who are walking home will dismiss through the church doors on those days.**
  - b. **Families with last names beginning L- Z:** Dismiss from the gym doors at 2:35 p.m. **Bus riders and those using Tots2Teens transportation will also exit these doors.**
  - c. Students may not use the office entrance or the playground entrance to depart the building at the end of the school

3. **Late pick-up:**—Staff will wait with children at dismissal time until 2:50 p.m. At 2:50 children who have not been picked up will be taken to the receptionist desk (main school entrance) where their name will be recorded. If a child is picked late two times in a quarter all incidents for the remainder of the quarter will result in a charge to the parent of \$1.00 for every minute after 2:50 p.m..
- The playground is off limits after school unless they are adult supervised.
  - Teachers are not responsible for students after school unless they are participating in a school activity. Any time the students are under the supervision of the school faculty, they will not be allowed to leave the school grounds unless accompanied by their parents or with written permission from their parents.

## Traffic Flow

Traffic flow will follow established patterns.

On the upper parking lot these are marked by arrows. A map with directions is provided annually to all parents on navigating the upper lot. Key items to remember:

1. The north door (primary wing) is NOT a stop and drop door. It is expected that parents walk younger children through the lot to the door for their safety, after parking in a parking spot.
2. At the main door cars should form two lines. Cars should never stop in the crosswalk. (See map in the Appendix)
3. During a.m. drop off there is no parking in the handicapped stalls closest to the building.
4. Children and parents should all cross at the crosswalk. If cars are actively moving, children and adults waiting to use the crosswalk should wait in the designated safe area.
5. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students may not be dropped off in front of the modular classroom. These students must enter through the school building.

On the lower parking lot please follow these guidelines:

1. All vehicles enter via the first entrance. All vehicles must pull into a parking stall before a child gets in at the end of the day.
2. Traffic flow is always in a counterclockwise direction. All vehicles exit the parking area through the second exit.
3. The upper drive is reserved only for buses.
4. At the end of the day all traffic must exit toward Marquette Street as the gates at the top of the hill are closed.
5. At the end of the day, supervising staff will hold children while buses are moving through the lot or loading to ensure safety for all.

## Traffic in Inclement Weather

During inclement weather it may become necessary to modify our drop off and pick up procedures. This may include a closure or modification related to the use of “the hill” at our Marquette entrance. Please watch for Parent Alerts (text, email, or voice message) regarding any changes in plans. The plan for this area will be based on the current conditions.

This may mean that only buses are allowed to use the Marquette entrance. It may also mean that the entrance is closed to all vehicles. In this case buses will need to use the Central Park entrance also. Please refrain from stopping in front of the doors in these cases.

## Visitors During the Day

Once the school day begins the gates on the north side of the building will be closed. This is to ensure the safety of our students who play in the fenced playground area. If you come to school during the time that school is in session, please plan to enter the parking lot via the West Central Park entrance. The front school door is locked during the day. Visitors will need to ring the bell outside in order to be admitted into the building.

All visitors, **including parents**, need to sign in at the receptionist desk if coming into the building during school hours. Visitors must also sign out when departing.

## Attendance

Regular daily attendance is necessary for the sound development of the total child in a Christian atmosphere. Therefore, children should not be kept home from school unless they are sick or unless the family is faced with some other emergency.

It shall be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to notify the school as soon as the parent or guardian knows the student will not be attending school on that day. The principal may request evidence or written verification of the student's reason for absence. Excuses should also be given for medical and dental appointments (if they must be made during school hours), and for non-participation in physical education classes. Work missed because of absence must be made up.

Regular and punctual attendance is important to the progress of your child. Excessive absences or tardiness interfere with a student's learning, directly affect a child's achievement, teach a poor pattern of life behavior, and disrupt the learning experience for the entire class.

**Tardiness:** Students not in class by 7:35 (according to school clocks) will be considered tardy. Tardy students must report to the reception desk, where their tardiness will be recorded and an Attendance Slip will be given to the student. The student then gives this Attendance Slip to their teacher.

**Absences:** There will be times when attendance is not possible. Parents are asked to call the school office so that the school can be assured of the safety of each child. It is very helpful for you to call us by 8:00. Students returning to class after an absence are to bring a written note to the teacher.

Arrival to school after 9:00 AM or departure before 1:30 PM constitutes a half-day absence.

If a student must leave before the end of the school day, parents sign their child out at the reception desk, and the office staff will call the teacher to have the child excused from class. (Students will not be waiting in the vestibule.) Teachers have been directed to not allow students to leave until properly signed out by the parent. Students are responsible for all assignments missed while absent from school.

**In regard to attendance records, absences are recorded the same whether they are excused or unexcused.**

Students unable to attend school due to illness (including leaving school early) are not to participate in or otherwise attend after school functions. For example, a student leaving at noon with a fever is not to show up for the basketball game that afternoon. Exceptions to this policy will only be allowed per the principal's discretion, for extenuating circumstances.

**Planned Absences:** Parents/guardians should avoid family vacations during the school year. If this can't be avoided, parents will notify the teacher at least one week in advance. Missed school work will be given to the student upon return to class with an assigned deadline.

**Chronic tardiness and absence:** If students are chronically absent or tardy, parents will meet with the classroom teacher and administration to correct the problem. A student who is absent for 20 or more days in a school year may be subject to retention in the current grade.

Administration is given the discretion to investigate and determine whether disciplinary or special action is necessary for students who are absent repeatedly, and to determine what constitutes "absent repeatedly" on a case-by-case basis.

## **Annual Re-enrollment**

Trinity Lutheran School will use continuous enrollment, meaning that your student will continue to be enrolled at Trinity, unless you "opt-out." Trinity Lutheran will assume that every student enrolled in the current year will return for the next year and subsequent school years, unless given notice otherwise.

We will notify you of the date you will be assessed any applicable fees and charges for the 2024-2025 school year. The official "opt-out" period will be established in January/ February 2024, which coincides with the school enrollment period.

The following was signed by all parents when they first enrolled their K-8 student at Trinity:

**By signing this enrollment contract, I agree that my student is enrolled continuously in Trinity Lutheran until such time that I provide written notice of intent to withdraw from the school or the student graduates. I understand that my payment plan will be automatically renewed each year along with any applicable enrollment fees and I will be billed for the upcoming school year unless I give written notice of my student's withdrawal. Should I withdraw my student, I will be responsible to pay for the prorated amount of tuition based on my student's days attended at the school.**

## **Lunch/Milk/Snacks**

A hot lunch, which includes milk, is available Monday through Friday. Students may also bring their lunch in a labeled sack or lunch container. Milk is available at lunch on a daily basis.

Parents wishing their children to order milk or an extra entree are to deposit funds in their Hot Lunch/Milk account through the FACTS Family Portal. When funds become low, FACTS will send an email reminder to fund the account. Payments may be made through the Family Portal. Students will be provided an ID that will

be used to record payments for daily lunches. There is a \$5.00 fee to replace lost cards. If students take an extra entree or extra milk, students will still be charged, even if they qualify for free/reduced lunch.

It is not possible to provide refrigeration, heating, or hot water for individual student lunches.

Students eat lunch in Trinity Hall (the church basement). Should you choose to bring lunch for your child mid-day, it may be dropped off at the school office just prior to their lunch period. Please do not arrive with lunch past your child's lunch period.

Specific lunch times for each grade will be shared with families prior to school beginning.

Snacks may be allowed in class at the discretion of each teacher. If allowed, as with lunches, you are encouraged to provide nutritious snacks. High sugar foods (soda, candy bars, snack cakes, etc.) actually interfere with a student's ability to focus while at school.

It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the school of any specific food allergies and to provide physician prescribed action plans when appropriate. Please be sure to notify the teacher, the school office, and the hot lunch personnel.

**Please note that it is negligent to repeatedly send a child to school without either a lunch or lunch money.**

**Parents are responsible to ensure that their children have lunch provided.** Parents will be notified when additional funds are needed for a lunch account.

## **Free and Reduced Lunches**

Parents may apply for Free and Reduced Lunches based on financial need. The application for Free and Reduced meals must be submitted annually. If a family qualified in the previous year the application will be "grandfathered" until early October. After that point, if a new application is not submitted the free or reduces status will be removed pending a new application. Please remember that extra entrees and extra milk are not covered by free and reduced pricing and will be billed to the student account. Applications may be picked up in the school office. Completed applications must be turned into the Trinity school office. Please do not complete an online application with the Davenport Community School District; a physical form must be turned into the Trinity school office.

## **Fundraising**

Why have fundraisers? Trinity Lutheran School raises needed income from fundraisers to support school costs. The truth is that the tuition charged per student does not cover all student expenses, creating the need for additional income. All fundraising creates funds that we don't have to collect in tuition, and surplus funds go toward other items for the benefit of our students. As fundraisers come along, we encourage you to get involved, enlist the support of your relatives and friends, and help us to keep costs down while improving the quality of our school programs and facilities. The School Ministry Team approves all fundraising activities. We are committed to doing a few fundraisers with big results.

## **Scrip**

The SCRIP program is an excellent fundraising program. By regularly participating in it you can reduce your tuition or other school charges and support the school. Specifically, buying SCRIP means buying gift certificates and gift cards that you can spend as cash at many local stores and merchants, and even online in some cases. Using SCRIP costs you no extra money. For example, \$50 of Kohl's SCRIP costs you \$50, and buys you \$50 of merchandise. Schools like TLS are able to buy the SCRIP at a discount, so by selling it to you at face value, a profit is generated on each and every dollar. Those profits add up. The profits benefit families directly in reduced school costs. The school also benefits as profits are used to purchase needed equipment and improvements.

In order to receive tuition/school charge credits, parents must complete a registration form each year.

## **Martin Luther Media Center**

Library time is scheduled each week for all classes. Our teacher librarian and volunteer librarians read to the students and assist them in finding reading material suitable to their interests. Books may be checked out for one week at a time. Charges are assessed to replace lost or damaged books. Students will have brief time in the media center early in the week to return and check out books. Later in the week they will return for a longer period to participate in book related activities.

Volunteer help is always necessary and appreciated in the library. Volunteers help in restacking books, adding new books, and assisting children in finding selections. They may also share in the reading to the primary grades, if desired. Speak to your child's teacher or the media coordinator if this interests you. We also encourage grandparents to become part of our volunteer team.

## **Shining Stars**

This is the extended day care program for Trinity students. Hours of operation are 2:30 – 5:30 PM. On early out days the program will begin at school dismissal. Teachers will ensure that students get to the Shining Stars classroom. When parents arrive to pick up their children they must sign their child out before leaving.

Please be aware that individuals who pick up students may be asked to show identification. Parents must keep the list of authorized persons for pick up current. Further details can be found in the Shining Stars handbook by speaking to the Shining Stars center director or the Shining Stars on-site supervisor.

Closing Time: Shining Stars closes at 5:30 PM. If pick-up should be delayed for some emergency, please call the center and inform the person on duty that you will be late. Please see Shining Stars handbook for more information.

If fees are not paid in a timely manner, the family will not be allowed to continue using these services. All school rules apply while students are in Shining Stars.

## Chapel

Most Wednesday mornings a brief worship service for all children in our school (PS-8) is held in the church sanctuary. Chapel consists of songs of praise, prayer time, and a brief Bible lesson. Grades 1 – 8 have assigned chapel families for their 8:30 AM worship. Preschool and kindergarten classes attend chapel at 8:00 AM. Offering envelopes will be gathered at each of these chapel services and forwarded to pre-designated causes and missions.

## Athletics

Our sports program features a number of activities. Trinity fields teams for girls' volleyball, soccer, cross country, boys' flag football, boys' and girls' basketball, track, golf. We compete against other Lutheran schools in Iowa District East and public and private schools elsewhere in the Quad-Cities area. To help ensure the success of our programs, all parents of those involved in sports are required to volunteer by working concessions, keeping scorebooks, or numerous other volunteer positions available. The Athletic Director is in charge of the sports program. An athletics handbook is distributed annually to all families who have a child participating in sports.

## Communication

Three-way communication among the school, parent, and child is essential to successful growth. The usual types of communication are listed below.

1. Prior to the school year, teachers arrange for Tiger Talks as a way to open the communication door on a positive and caring footing.
2. Trinity Lutheran School strives for an **on-going** reporting system through phone calls, notes, email, mid-term reports, and parent-teacher conferences.
3. The Family Portal of FACTS SIS—our school management software package. (Allows parents to monitor grades, attendance, tuition, and account balances, calendar, announcements, etc.)
4. Each Friday an all-school newsletter is shared electronically and posted on the FACTS Family Portal.
5. Classroom newsletters may be sent home weekly.
6. Teachers also have published email addresses. Parents are encouraged to communicate in this way unless the teacher has given specific direction on a preferred communication channel.
7. Parents are welcome to visit classrooms. Please be conscious of the fact that frequent visits may disrupt the learning focus, but an occasional drop-in to see the class in action is encouraged. Please make sure to arrange a time with the teacher to avoid disruption of tests. *Do not expect the teacher to stop in order to talk to you; working with the students is always the first priority.* Please stop by the receptionist desk to sign in and pick up a badge.
8. If you would like to speak with a teacher about a concern, please make an appointment (see the next section – Parent/Teacher Concerns).
9. We invite your insights and observations.
10. Parent volunteers are welcome. Let the teacher know in what capacity you might like to help.

## Student Directory Information

Student directory information, which includes parent and student names and contact information, will be available within the school to all authorized personnel. If a family does not want its contact information published, they must notify the administration in writing. Families have access to the student directory through the FACTS SIS Family Portal. Hard copies will be available upon request.

This information will also be available to Trinity Lutheran Church and school organizations. Trinity Lutheran School will not share this directory information with any other entities for the purpose of solicitation.

## Student Personal Records/Access

A student's personal records, which include but are not limited to the student's cumulative folder and its contents, any records stored electronically, the student's emergency information card, and the student's health records, are the property of Trinity Lutheran School. Trinity reserves the right to administer access to and transportation of these records. Trinity manages student records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Access to student personal records shall be limited to authorized school personnel, authorized representatives of appropriate government agencies, and the student's parents or guardian. In all other cases, personal records can be viewed only upon receipt of written permission from the parents or guardian of the student. Persons wishing to view records must contact the principal to make arrangements.

A copy of a student's personal records will be sent to another school upon receipt of a parent-or guardian authorized request, or a request for records from that school.

## Student Photos

Teachers and other staff members may take photos of students while at school. These photos may be shared in Social Media or promotional materials. Trinity will not include the full names of any students. Generally, we don't include even a first name. If you do not want your child's image to be shared in these ways, you need to provide this request in writing to the school office.

## Addressing the School Ministry Team

Anyone may submit correspondence to the School Ministry Team. All correspondence is read at our meetings and entered into the official minutes. A School Ministry Team mailbox is available next to the church office. The name, address, and telephone number of the correspondent must be included. Should the School Ministry Team feel that the matter falls under their area of oversight, it may choose to place the matter on a later agenda for attention. Alternatively, the matter may be directed to the principal for attention. This should only be done when direct communication with the appropriate individual has not brought resolution to a concern.

## Parent/Teacher Concerns

All members/parents are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the party involved. Following the guidelines of Matthew 18, a parent who has a concern should:

1. Make an appointment to meet with the teacher involved. **The teachers' school days are devoted to the children; so disruption during the school day is not allowed.** Please contact them to meet at a mutually agreeable time. It is generally a good idea to allow a 24 hour period before meeting with a teacher.
2. If no resolution occurs, please inform the teacher of your intention to meet with the principal. Then make an appointment and meet with the principal regarding your concerns.
3. If no resolution occurs, it will be necessary to have a meeting with the teacher, principal, and parent together. The principal can help make this appointment.
4. If still no resolution has been achieved, you may put your concern into writing and explain what further resolution you feel is necessary. Give that letter to the Chairperson of the School Ministry Team. A School Ministry Team mailbox is in the hall next to the church office.
5. If the School Ministry Team chairperson believes that there are extenuating circumstances, your concern will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting. You will be notified when it will be taken under advisement. Normally, the School Ministry Team will not address matters of parental concerns, making it the principal's responsibility to address and resolve such concerns.

Concerns should be directed to the individuals specifically involved at each step before sharing information with participants at the next step. Our ultimate goal is to do what is best for children. So, it is in the best interest of all if we always approach situations so that problems might be solved, rather than ignored or enlarged. It is also our wish that your concern is not shared with other teachers or parents. We hope these steps will help resolve matters by providing a scripturally sound way to proceed.

## Parental Involvement

Parent participation and support is needed and valued at Trinity Lutheran School. Parents who wish to volunteer or observe in a classroom are welcome to do so. However, parents must first contact the classroom teacher to make these arrangements. Parents are asked to seek an appointment with teachers to discuss concerns rather than simply stopping by in the morning, for example.

Numerous opportunities are provided for parents to become involved in a wide variety of school activities. All parents are encouraged to get involved.

## Volunteers

Volunteers bring something special to a school. They provide extra services for children, assist the teachers, help with special events, and bring a real sense of satisfaction to the volunteer. Volunteering is also a terrific way to get in touch with what is going on at TLS. We would like to make good use of your talents, whatever they are. Please let us know how you wish to volunteer. Volunteers will go through a screening process and will be expected to follow child safety protocols.

## Tuition and Fees

Trinity Lutheran Church believes in an open-door policy in regard to enrollment in its day school. Financial assistance can be sought to aid those families who desire to have their children attend Trinity Lutheran School but genuinely cannot afford to do so on their own.

## **Educational Savings Account**

In 2023, the state of Iowa passed the Student First Education Savings Accounts Act, providing Education Savings Accounts for qualified families. Funds are granted to qualified students to cover school tuition and fees. Parents who want to take advantage of the ESA will need to apply every year. Once a student qualifies for an ESA, they are assured of eligibility provided the parent completes the annual application. Information regarding ESAs may be found on the Iowa Department of Ed website: [Iowa Dept of Ed ESA Information](#)

More information on Trinity's tuition and payment plans with ESA dollars may be found in the "Payment Plan" section of this handbook.

## **Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (STO) Assistance**

Families who do not qualify for ESAs may apply for the ILSTO (Iowa Student Tuition Organization). These grants are based on residency and income thresholds. As a general rule families who qualify for an ESA will not qualify for an ILSTO grant.

Currently enrolled families seeking assistance must fill out an STO application by the April deadline (which will be published in school communications). No exceptions can be made for application at a later date. Families will be notified if they have qualified for assistance and what level of assistance they will receive. As a general rule, currently enrolled families must apply for an STO grant prior to applying for additional assistance from Trinity.

## **Trinity Lutheran Financial Assistance**

If a family does not qualify for an ESA or STO, Trinity Lutheran also provides a limited number of scholarships. Parents must apply through FACTS Grant and Aid (a fee applies to this application). A committee will review the application and determine the amount of Financial Assistance.

## **Delinquent tuition**

If a family misses a tuition payment due to non-sufficient funds (NSF), FACTS will notify the family via email and the payment will be rescheduled 15 days from the missed payment. FACTS will assess NSF fees to be paid by the family.

If a family misses a second payment, FACTS will again notify the family via email and the payment will again be rescheduled 15 days from the 2<sup>nd</sup> missed payment. Trinity may contact the family to discuss payment arrangements for this missed payment. FACTS will assess NSF fees to be paid by the family.

If the family misses the payment the third time, the payment would be considered "unresolved" and payment will be due in the business office. Families will be notified that they have 10 school days to make payment arrangements with Trinity. If payment arrangements are not made by the end of the 10-day grace period, Trinity reserves the right to exclude the child from class until the payments are brought current or payment arrangements are made.

Any outstanding tuition balance that remains at the end of a school year must be paid in full before the student will be allowed to begin school the following year.

The administration and School Ministry Team at Trinity Lutheran School will make every attempt to assist families who have unusual and challenging circumstances that arise during the year. Good communication will assist all parties in making sure that needs are met. We have a common goal: the Christ-centered education of children. With good communication we can cooperatively work to ensure that this goal is met for all who desire it.

## FACTS Tuition Management

### General Information

All families have a FACTS account from which they may access financial information. All of your financial balances are located in the “Financial” tab on FACTS Family Portal. From this portal, you may access account balances, pay outstanding invoices, fund Hot Lunch and Shining Stars accounts, review transactions, and print payment summaries for income tax returns.

### *ESA Family Account*

Families are responsible for applying for the ESA through the Odyssey website. Once the application is approved families are responsible for choosing their school, verifying their tuition, and approving any charges that are due to Trinity Lutheran School. Annual tuition and fees will be added to Odyssey by Trinity Lutheran school each semester. Odyssey will send parent approved payments in the Fall and Spring. Please see your Odyssey account for more information.

### Payment Plans

Trinity offers multiple payment plan options for tuition and fees for families not receiving an ESA, ranging from a one-time payment due in August to monthly installment payments. Please contact the Business Office with any questions you have regarding your Tuition Payment Plan. Specific payment policies, including NSF late charges, are outlined when you enroll in the payment plan.

Adjustments to your payment schedule must be called into the Business Office at least 2 Business Days before your scheduled payment. Please contact the Business Office with any questions.

### Pre-Pay Accounts

Hot Lunch and Shining Stars accounts are considered “**Pre-pay accounts**” and must be funded before charges are assessed. Prepayment may be done online through FACTS on Family Portal. ESA dollars will not cover Hot Lunch or Shining Stars charges.

TLS expects these accounts to be funded at all times. When your Hot Lunch or Shining Stars account falls below zero, you will receive an email notice from FACTS. You may add funds through your Family Portal account.

Trinity reserves the right to deny hot lunch if your account balance falls below a certain dollar amount. It also reserves the right to deny child care service if your account balance becomes delinquent unless arrangements are made with the child care administrator.

## **Incidental Billing**

Trinity Lutheran School will use FACTS' "**Incidental Billing**" to create invoices periodically throughout the year. Examples include classroom field trip charges, athletic fees, PE Uniforms, or other school-related expenses. You will receive an invoice via email; from there, you may pay directly from the invoice or access your FACTS account through Family Portal to make payment. In some situations, you may use ESA dollars to pay for Incidental Bills. Please contact the business office for more information.

The payment due date will be stated on the invoice.

Please refer to Trinity's Field Trip policy and Sports Fee policy for additional information.

## **Non-Sufficient Funds**

For any payments returned for Non-Sufficient Funds, FACTS will assess an additional fee. Please refer to the [FACTS Returned Payment Fee Policy](#) located on your FACTS account.

**To avoid any possible NSF and FACTS fees, please contact the business office at least 2 business days before a scheduled payment, including incidental invoices, if you need to reschedule a payment. To verify that the business office received the request, a confirmation email will be sent to you via FACTS when a change occurs on your payment plan.**

**If you need to make a change and the Business Office is not open, please call 1-866-441-4637 to speak to a FACTS Customer Service Representative. Their office is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week and may assist you with your agreement.**

Trinity reserves the right to assess a late fee in addition to the FACTS Returned Payment Fee if the payment is not made or re-scheduled with the business office.

## **Withdrawals**

If you funded your tuition with ESA dollars, if you should withdraw from Trinity Lutheran School, Trinity will not pro-rate or refund tuition or any school fees paid with these dollars (including Outdoor Ed and Band). Special arrangements may be made if tuition was not paid with ESA dollars. All school expenses such as Hot Lunch, Shining Stars and Incidental Billing will need to be paid in full prior to the last day. Refunds will be granted for balances over \$10 in the Hot Lunch or Shining Stars account. Trinity will issue any refund check within 30 days after withdrawal.

Enrollment Fees are non-refundable.

## **Hot Lunch/Shining Stars End Of Year**

For returning students, any credit balance in Hot Lunch or Shining Stars will be carried forward to the new school year.

Outstanding Hot Lunch and Shining Stars balances are due before the close of the school year. If the balances remain unpaid, Trinity will add these to the new school year's Pre-Pay Account. Low balance Pre-Pay Account policies apply.

Upon withdrawal or graduation from Trinity, any balances in excess of \$10.00 will be refunded to the family, after any transfers to unpaid accounts

# ACADEMICS

Trinity Lutheran School operates as an alternative to public education. It is a place where a sound, challenging, and enriching curriculum surpassing state standards is taught in the midst of a loving Christian environment. We are not in competition with the public schools, but rather similarly provide for the academic needs of students while intentionally allowing our Christian faith to influence everything we do. We meet spiritual needs that are not part of the educational aims of public schools.

## Curriculum

Trinity Lutheran School is fully recognized and accredited both by National Lutheran School Accreditation and the Iowa Department of Education. We receive the services, as allowed to a non-public school, of the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency.

The school faculty is constantly striving to secure and employ the most efficient methods and media for instruction through continued study, faculty workshops, and in-service training. They attend appropriate educational conferences available to them.

We integrate into our curriculum the Holy Bible and the sharing of our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior from sin, based on approved curricular materials". Bible study and application of faith to life are part of the daily curriculum, and all other subjects are taught from a Christian perspective.

The curriculum comprises of the following subject areas: religion, memory, reading, spelling, language/grammar/writing, handwriting, music/band, social studies, art, science, mathematics, computers/technology, and physical education. Career education and global awareness are infused into various areas of study.

## Computer/Technology

Our students use various technological tools to enhance learning. Internet use is carefully supervised, and proper moral use of technology is taught. Filtering software assists us in keeping inappropriate information from our students. Students and parents sign an acceptable use agreement form prior to the beginning of the school year. There are consequences for misuse of school technology. Please see the Acceptable Use Policy in the appendix.

## Physical Education

Students in grades preschool through eight shall be required to participate in physical education courses. Our school maintains a program of physical education classes and recess periods.

Students will be excused from classes when a written request is given from the parent. If they will not participate for more than a week, a doctor's note should be given.

Students in grades five through eight must have official gym outfits that may be purchased through Trinity Lutheran School. PLEASE LABEL ALL PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLOTHING AND SHOES WITH THE STUDENTS NAME.

# Music

**Music instruction** – We believe that music is a gift from God and a powerful tool for learning. Our teachers integrate music instruction into the curriculum on a regular basis. This may include learning hymns and Bible songs in religion, learning to appreciate the music from other cultures, or using jingles or catchy tunes to help learn other content. Teachers may also teach basic music concepts in the regular classroom.

**Band:** – Students in grades 5 – 8 may participate in our band program.

- Fifth grade students participate in the beginning band. Sixth grade students may move to the concert band.
- There is a band fee of \$125 for the year.
- In addition to two group sessions each student also receives a small group or a private session.
- Performances occur throughout the school year, including several concerts at Trinity. Students receive a grade for participation which includes performances.

**Classroom Choirs:**

- Students meet once a week to practice songs which are sung in church as part of a Sunday worship service or for chapel.
- Students in Grades 6 – 8 may participate in the Praise Choir that performs in church services. Student choirs may also sing for festival services (Christmas) and annual concert performances.
- Students receive a grade based on participation and performance attendance.

# Assessment

It is our concern that each individual pupil's achievements correspond to the ability of the child. This is partially determined by the use of standardized tests in the areas of intelligence and achievement. The MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) are administered along with other assessment tools throughout the year.

# Promotion and Retention

Students will be promoted to the next grade level at the end of each school year based on the student's achievement, age, maturity, emotional stability, and social adjustment. The recommendation to retain a student will be determined on the judgment of the certified staff, principal and parents.

# Graduation Requirements

Students must have successfully completed the courses required for graduation by the School Ministry Team. Students must successfully complete each grade level, grades one through eight, and complete all the required courses of study prior to graduation as determined by the State Department of Education and the School Ministry Team.

# Enrichment Opportunities

Trinity Lutheran School challenges its students to go beyond the basic curriculum in a variety of areas. The goal is to work with the God-given talents and abilities of the whole child and help each individual student to work to their greatest individual potential. The following activities enhance the Christian education:

- Children's Christmas program

- Field trips – prior approval from administration.
- Junior Achievement – grades Kindergarten through 8
- National Geography Bee - Grades 4 through 8
- Classroom choirs
- Visiting Artists
- Student council - Grades 5 - 8
- Band - Grades 5 - 8
- Spelling Bee – Grades 3-8
- Outdoor education – Grades 6 - 8
- Praise Choir – Grades 6 - 8
- Theater – Grades 5 – 8
- Team sports
- Yearbook Club-Grade 8
- National Junior Honor Society

## Resource Room and Title 1

Trinity has a Resource Room for students who need additional support in a subject area, primarily reading and math. Students must be deemed as eligible in order to use the resource room. Trinity also has a Title 1 teacher who provides support to qualified students in Reading and Math.

## Report Cards

Reporting pupil progress is done by means of report cards issued quarterly and through parent conferences in the first and third quarters. Conferences provide the parents with opportunities to discuss personally with the teacher the progress of the child and the implication of the report card grades. This method aims at a greater understanding of the child's strengths and weaknesses, as well as ways to improve his school progress.

Parents can also monitor student progress at any time by logging in to FACTS SIS, our school management software. It should be noted that special conferences with the teacher are always encouraged and welcomed.

## Assignments

Assignments are important because of their positive influence on academic preparation. In many cases assignments are work that could be completed in school during study time. In other cases they are work that is intended to carry over and be completed at home. Assignments also give parents the opportunity to keep up with the child's progress in school, observe his or her study habits, and to encourage and assist him or her.

We also place special emphasis on religious memory work. Besides providing a solid foundation of Christian doctrine, religious memory selections serve Christians as a comfort in sorrow, and reassurance in times of danger. There may be daily assignments. Ask your child what he or she is studying, show real interest in hearing him say the selection assigned, and encourage and help him or her to understand that all of it is worthwhile.

It is difficult to adopt a standard rule for the amount of time to be spent on assignments at home. There is a great degree of variance in the amount of time spent through the grades and among children within the same

grade. Generally speaking, we believe that when children in grades 1 to 3 are spending considerably more than forty-five minutes on schoolwork night after night, there might be a reason for the parent to contact the teacher. By the same token, when children in grades 4 to 8 are consistently spending more than 90 minutes per night on assignments, it may be time for an examination of study habits, use of time at school, involvement in school activities, etc. Conversely, when children never have assignments to do at home, it may also be time to ask some questions. Communication and partnership between home and school are necessary in all matters regarding a student's assignment responsibilities so that the assignments can be worthwhile experiences from which the student will benefit.

We encourage parents to assist their children by providing a quiet place to study, adequate time to study, and encouragement in their work. We remind parents that part of the learning experience is for students to accept the responsibility for the completion of assignments themselves- **not the parents**. Students gain nothing from work that is done for them.

## **Objectives of Assignments:**

1. To stimulate voluntary effort, initiative, independence, responsibility, and self-direction.
2. To encourage finding the appropriate balance between work and play.
3. To enrich the school experience through related home activities.
4. To reinforce school learning by providing the necessary practice, integration, and application.

## **Missing or Late Work:**

Assignments not turned in at the appointed time will be considered late. Students are asked to solve the problem in a timely manner. If work is turned in the day it is due there is no consequence. Students will be given 24 hours to complete late work. These assignments have a 10 point reduction.

## **Make-Up Work**

Students who are absent from school will have one school day to make up the assignments for each day of excused absence. (For example - if a child is absent on Monday and returns to school on Tuesday, make-up work will be completed on Wednesday.) If this does not allow enough time for the assignments to be completed, the parent should contact the teacher to request more time. It is the student's responsibility to get the missing assignments from the teacher(s). Parents are discouraged from planning family trips and activities that will cause their children to miss school.

# RULES & REQUESTS

## Church Attendance

The goals of the policy are:

1. To encourage parents to do all they can in example and conduct to support the Christian education of their child.
2. To encourage regular use of God's means of grace (the Word and Sacraments) for Christian growth of parents and students.
3. To support the continuing excellence of Christian education at Trinity Lutheran School.

Membership in a Christian congregation is a privilege that involves and requires commitments. God committed Himself to save us from sin and death through the life, death, and rising of Jesus, and commits Himself to our ongoing care and support. We, in turn, commit ourselves to His worship and service, and to the fulfillment of His will, including the love of our neighbors, the Godly raising of our children, and the active and personal support of the mission to make disciples of all nations.

Therefore, the constitution of Trinity Lutheran Church includes as duties of members:

1. Section 4.2.3 Diligently hear the Word of God and frequently partake of the Lord's Supper.
2. Section 4.2.7 Exercise faithful stewardship of God's gifts of time, talent, and material wealth and put aside a portion of the money that God has given to support all that the congregation has made its concern, and in general to assist in bearing all its burdens.

Whether a family is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, another Christian congregation in the community, or not involved in a fellowship of faith; we at Trinity want to assist the family to come into a closer relationship with God. The mission mandate of Trinity Lutheran makes clear that this community of faith is focused on equipping and encouraging the home to be alive in Christ. Our prayer is that people will have faith in the one true God. We will remind those who are members at Trinity Lutheran Church that in order for parents to be equipped to share faith with their children, they must first have an active and growing faith themselves. We believe that being with fellow believers and sharing in the Word, Sacraments, and Christian fellowship is the best way to nurture this personal faith. Trinity as a congregation invests substantial resources into providing faith-based education to children. We are prayerful that this investment will pay eternal dividends. Given what we know about the power of the example of parents, as a congregation, we (i.e. pastors, elders, staff, and fellow members) will express our concern in Christian love if a member family is not participating in the worship and fellowship that takes place in our congregation.

# EXPECTATIONS AND RULES FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

## Core Beliefs that Guide Enforcement of School Rules and Expectations

Each student is a unique individual with special personal, social and educational needs. As a result, every disciplinary situation is different in nature. Consequences for misbehavior provide the best learning value when matched to the individual student and situation. The likelihood that children learn from their mistakes increases dramatically when children see a reasonable connection between their behavior and the resulting consequences.

Trinity Lutheran School staff is dedicated to following a set of core beliefs that provide a framework for dealing with student discipline. The staff encourages parents to bring concerns and questions to us in the event that we operate in ways that appear to be inconsistent with these core beliefs.

## Trinity Lutheran School Core Beliefs

The following list of core beliefs outlines the professional actions and attitudes of all staff members in this school. Generally, we expect students to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the Christian values of Trinity Lutheran Church School as established in the Bible.

*Hebrews 12:11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (ESV)*

*Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (ESV)*

1. Every attempt will be made to maintain the dignity and self-respect of both the student and the teacher.
2. Students will be guided and expected to solve their problems, or the ones they create, without creating problems for anyone else.
3. Students will be given opportunities to make decisions and live with the consequences, be they positive or negative.
4. Misbehavior will be handled with natural or logical consequences instead of punishment whenever possible.
5. Misbehavior will be viewed as an opportunity for individual problem solving and preparation for the real world as opposed to a personal attack on school or staff.
6. Students are encouraged to request a due process meeting whenever consequences appear to be unfair.
7. School problems will be handled by school personnel. Criminal activity will be referred to the proper authorities.

# Standards of Student Learning, Safety and Security

The School Ministry Team (SMT) has established policies for safety and security and has set penalties for violation of these standards. These policies address the safety and security of both children and staff. They are not up for interpretation or revision.

## SCHOOL RULES

*Rules and Expectations Supporting the Orderly Operation of the School and the Educational Process Rules and expectations covered in this section are designed to meet the following goals:*

1. Maintain an orderly school operation.
2. Maintain optimal learning opportunities for students. School facilities and classrooms must be free of behaviors that interfere with teaching and learning.
3. Help students develop skills and behaviors necessary for healthy social interaction, both present and future.
4. Help students learn how their decisions affect the quality of theirs and others lives.
5. Help students develop responsibility and character.

## Trinity Lutheran School Rules

1. Treat others with the same respect with which you are treated by the adults in this school.
2. Your actions, dress, possessions, etc., may not cause a problem for anyone else.

Problem actions include, but are not limited to:

- Disrespectful words or actions toward adults or other students, including profanity and class disruption;
- Physical fighting including pushing, hitting, kicking, punching and the like;
- Cheating, lying, and stealing;
- Any actions using Chromebook, iPads, or any other electronic devices that have not been directed by a teacher, as per the Technology Acceptable Use Policy;
- Refusing to follow directions;
- Talking about subjects that make others uncomfortable;
- Public displays of affection;
- Chewing gum on school property.

# Dress Code

At Trinity, one of our main goals is to teach the children to live their faith. This includes how we present ourselves through our dress. Therefore, at Trinity, we have the following expectations for our students' dress:

Problems related to dress include, but are not limited to:

- Clothing is to be neat, free from fraying or holes, modest in fit (length and tightness).
- Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be no more than four inches above the top of the knee cap when standing.
- No skin is to be exposed between the top of the shoulders and four inches above the knee cap with the exception of the arms. Tank-tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, crop tops, and the like are not to be worn at school.
- Shirts are allowed to have God-pleasing pictures and messages on them.
- Shoes are to have backs or back straps and may not have heels higher than one inch.
- Students are to wear non-denim dress pants, dress shorts, skirts, or dresses on chapel days.
- Girls are to wear shorts or leggings under skirts and dresses that fully cover underwear.
- Students are to wear shirts, sweaters, or sweatshirts with no pictures or writing on them on chapel days.
- Hair is to be one of the four natural hair colors.
- Makeup and accessories are not to cause a distraction or issue for students or teachers.
- Outerwear, hoods and hats are not to be worn in the school
- If a student will be playing in the snow he or she must be wearing a hat, gloves, snow pants, boots, and coat. Otherwise, he or she will play on the blacktop.

When a student has a dress expectation problem, they will be guided by our staff in a loving and respectful way to solve the problem before attending/returning to the classroom. The faculty will guide students to solve dress expectation problems in a way that encourages personal responsibility and without using anger or lectures. Faculty may refer students to the office where students can change inappropriate clothing or contact the parent for help getting appropriate clothing to school. When a student has a chronic issue with dress, the parents will be contacted to assist in correcting the problem before a child is returned to the classroom.

Problems related to possessions include, but are not limited to:

- Student cell phone use while at school or at school without teacher approval.
- Other personal electronic devices, including Smart Watches, should be left at home.
- Toys brought to school without teacher approval.
- Destroying or vandalizing others' property.
- If a student's actions, dress, or possessions cause a problem for anyone else, they will be asked to solve that problem.
- If the student cannot solve the problem, or choose not to, staff members will impose an appropriate consequence. This consequence will depend upon the situation and the person or persons involved. Staff members will use their best judgment based on the information they have at the time.
- If students and/or parents feel that the consequences are unfair, they should request a "due process" meeting.

- A due process meeting does not need to be formal in nature. It is simply a time for concerned individuals to meet and share information related to the situation in question. In the event that this discussion provides additional information that sheds a different light on the situation, or shows the consequences to be unfair, the consequences may be changed or eliminated to better fit the unique situation.

# TRINITY LUTHERAN POLICIES

The following is a list of policies established by the SMT. The consequences for violating these rules cannot be excused or changed by school administration or staff. School problems will be handled by school personnel; however legal authorities will be contacted if illegal activity is suspected.

## Safety and Security Policies

- Possession and distribution of alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia will not be tolerated on school grounds. Consequences
  - 1st offense -- 3-day suspension
  - Any other occurrence will result in expulsion.
- Acts or threats of violence, harassment, and bullying

Trinity Lutheran School prohibits harassment, bullying, hazing, or any other victimization of students based on any of the following actual or perceived traits or characteristics, including but not limited to: race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or any other reason that is contrary to the teachings of Holy Scripture.

Harassment and bullying of students and employees are against federal, state and local policy, and will not be tolerated. Bullying and harassment of students and employees by students, school employees, parents, and volunteers who have direct contact with students and employees will not be tolerated.

This policy is in effect while students or employees are on property within the jurisdiction of the SMT; while on school-owned or school-operated vehicles; while attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school.

Harassment and bullying mean any electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward a student which is based on any actual or perceived trait or characteristic of the student and which creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:

- A. Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property;
- B. Has a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health;
- C. Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's academic performance; or
- D. Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

If a student is found to be in violation of this policy, the student shall be disciplined by appropriate measures up to and including suspension and expulsion. If a school employee is found to be in violation of this policy, the employee shall be disciplined by appropriate measures up to and including termination. If after an investigation

a school volunteer is found to be in violation of this policy, the volunteer shall be subject to appropriate measures up to, and including, exclusion from school grounds. "Volunteer" means an individual who has regular, significant contact with students.

Trinity teachers and staff have all been trained in the use of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. This program has a strong research base that indicates instances of bullying decrease in schools where the program is used with integrity. Students are taught the following rules and are expected to follow them:

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will help other students who are bullied.
3. We will include students who are left out.
4. If we know that someone is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

Consequences:

- First Offense: Parental Contact- Phone and Detention
- Second Offense: Two Day Out-of-school Suspension, Meeting with parents.
- Third Offense: Out-of-school Suspension for a minimum of 3 days or until meeting with School Ministry Team, Call Parents, Meet with School Ministry Team
- Fourth Offense: Expulsion from the school.

The school will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of bullying or harassment. The administrator or designee will be responsible for handling all complaints by students alleging bullying or harassment. The administrator or designee will be responsible for handling all complaints by employees alleging bullying or harassment.

- Possession or use of weapons or dangerous articles:

*"If a student is found to be in possession of a dangerous weapon, the weapon will be confiscated, and parents or guardians will be notified of the incident. Confiscation of weapons or dangerous objects shall also be reported to law enforcement officials, and the students will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.*

*Students bringing a weapon or dangerous object to school shall be expelled for not less than twelve months. However, the Administrator shall have the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement to be modified for a student on a case by case basis, in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code 280.21B and the Iowa Acts, H.F. 528 paragraph 23.*

*Dangerous weapons shall be defined according to 702.7 and 724.1 of the Iowa Code. (Examples include: pistols, revolvers, knives, shotguns, bombs, etc.)*

*As allowed by Federal and State law (Iowa State Code 724.4B) the Administrator may authorize dangerous weapons on school grounds, including but not limited to educational programs or displays. It shall be the responsibility of the Administrator to develop administrative procedures regarding this policy." (SMT Policy Handbook, Trinity Lutheran Church School)*

- Acts or threats of sexual harassment:

Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, physical, or electronic conduct of a sexual nature.

Any person who promptly, reasonably, and in good faith reports an incident of bullying or harassment under this policy to the administrator, shall be immune from civil or criminal liability relating to such report and to the person's participation in any administrative, judicial, or other proceeding relating to the report. Individuals who knowingly file a false complaint may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Retaliation against any person because the person has filed a bullying or harassment complaint or assisted or participated in a harassment investigation or proceeding, is also prohibited. Individuals who knowingly file false harassment complaints, and any person who gives false statements in an investigation, shall be subject to discipline by appropriate measures, as shall any person who is found to have retaliated against another in violation of this policy. Any student found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, suspension and expulsion. Any school employee found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, termination of employment. Any school volunteer found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, exclusion from school grounds.

Trinity Lutheran School reserves the right to search desks, lockers, and other areas, including personal property if reasonable cause has been established that indicates a student may have a dangerous and/or illegal item in their possession.

## PARENT-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

The School Ministry Team reserves the right to disassociate itself from, and force the withdrawal of, any student in that case where the parent/guardian(s) act(s) in a threatening, intimidating, inappropriate, or disruptive manner or in a manner that seriously violates our operating principles or threatens the functional climate of the school. In other words, the school reserves the right to ask any family to leave who interrupts the education, climate, and operating principles or refuses to cooperate with teachers, administration, and/or SMT at Trinity Lutheran School.

## SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY & GUIDELINES

Trinity Lutheran School students are held in the highest regard and are seen as Christian role models in the community. As Christian leaders, students have the responsibility to portray themselves and the school in a Christian manner at all times. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and other social media sites are used by most students. Inappropriate material posted and found by third parties affects the perception of the student and Trinity Lutheran School. Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include but are not limited to depictions or presentations of the photos, videos, comments or posts showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco. No photos, videos, or comments that are of a sexual nature are acceptable. This includes links to websites containing inappropriate material. No pictures, videos, comments or posts that condone drug-related activity are acceptable. This includes but is not limited to, images that portray the personal use of drugs and drug paraphernalia. Content that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening towards or any other individual or entity will be subject to disciplinary action. Posts may not depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities. This includes hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug use.

Note for Parents: All major social media platforms - including Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, and Tiktok - require users to be at least 13 years old to have an account. These restrictions exist for the safety of your child. Please refer to this article on Net Nanny for additional information regarding age-appropriate social media and safety:

<https://www.netnanny.com/blog/the-importance-of-social-media-age-restrictions/>

## FIELD TRIPS

Permission slips signed by parents or guardians for all field trips are required. Permission may be given electronically or with a paper copy. Please make sure slips are returned to school on time. If we do not have the permission slip we cannot allow your child to leave campus.

Verbal permission to attend a field trip is not acceptable. Arrangements will be made for your child to remain in another supervised location, or you may need to keep your child home on that day, depending on the length of the field trip. Field trip fees will be invoiced through FACTS Tuition Management.

Due safety and insurance considerations, buses will be the only means of transportation for field trips. The transportation cost will be figured into the total cost per child to participate in the field trip.

## TREATMENT OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

We expect that textbooks, desks, and other school equipment used by the students will receive normal wear. However, the repair or replacement cost of willfully or carelessly damaged/destroyed items will be charged to the student's account.

## TELEPHONE

We discourage the use of the telephone except in emergency situations (setting up a playdate with a friend is not an emergency, for example). Your help in making arrangements prior to coming to school is appreciated. Students must always have staff permission to make phone calls, which will typically only be allowed to family members.

## CELLULAR PHONES/WIRELESS DEVICES

If parents permit their children to bring a cell phone they are to be kept turned off and in their lockers or turned in to the classroom teacher. **Smart watches should be left at home.** Students may ask a staff member for permission to use their cell phone while on school grounds. We do allow students to use the phone in the school office as needed as well. If a student is found using their cell phone without permission, their cell phone will be taken from them. The device will need to be picked up by the parent, appropriate consequences may be applied.

# STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

## **Student Injury**

When a student becomes ill or injured at school, the teacher or another school employee will notify the student's parents as soon as possible after these individuals are aware of the incident. The school, while not responsible for medical treatment of an ill or injured student, will have authorized school personnel present to administer emergency and/or minor first aid if possible.

An ill or injured student will be turned over to the care of the parent, the parent's designee, or qualified medical personnel as quickly as possible. In the case of injury, the staff member most directly involved will create an incident report that will also be shared with parents/guardians.

Parents are required to complete a medical emergency authorization card indicating the procedures to be followed, if possible, in an emergency involving their child. It shall be the responsibility of the parent to provide the school with updated information on the medical authorization card.

## **Health Education**

Health services shall be coordinated with the health education and physical education curriculum. The goal of the health services provided by the school is to help each student protect, improve, and maintain physical, emotional, and social well-being.

Parents who object to health education instruction in human growth and development and sexuality may file a written request that the pupil be excused from the instruction.

# COUNSELING SERVICES

Trinity has a part-time school counselor who can support children and families in a variety of ways. (Please read the document in the Appendix).

Additional services are available throughout the community. We will gladly provide referrals to qualified counselors.

# MISSISSIPPI BEND AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

The MBAEA provides speech therapy, hearing testing, and an education consultant to students as determined necessary.

# SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Students are required to be in good health, as certified by their physician prior to their admission into school. The School Ministry Team retains the authority to deny enrollment if the student has not complied with the minimum immunization requirements as stated by the State Department of Health and to require at any time a certification of good health for any student.

A Scott County Health Department nurse serves Trinity's health program. In addition to the health services provided in the curriculum, the school will participate in the following Health Department services:

1. Weight and height screening
2. Vision and hearing screening
3. Lice screening-when needed

Further health services provided by the school are as follows:

1. Reporting communicable diseases
2. Reporting and maintaining student immunization records
3. Reporting child abuse observed by certified personnel
4. Providing hazardous chemical disclosure.

Parents are expected to cooperate with the school to carry out this program.

## MEDICATION POLICY

Any prescription medication that is to be given at school to a child by a teacher or staff member who has been trained in medication administration must be sent to school with the original prescription label on the container. Additionally, a Prescription Medication Form signed by the prescribing doctor and the parent must be turned in to the office before medications will be administered. Children who use inhalers for asthma must also have an inhaler form on file in order for them to self-administer this medication. These inhalers may be kept in the child's locker, and the child may self-administer. All other prescription medications are secured in the school office.

Over the counter medication (e.g. eye drops, Tylenol, Advil, cough drops, ointments) will also require a medication administration form and parental instructions attached to the package. These instructions should include:

1. Time the medication is to be given.
2. How much medication is to be given (dosage).
3. How the medication is to be delivered (e.g. by mouth, by eye, etc.)

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The term "communicable disease" is defined by the State Department of Health as an infectious or contagious disease spread from person to person or animal to person.

Children with infectious diseases must remain at home and their illness reported to the school office.

If a child has a temperature, he/she must remain at home until **fever free for 24 hours**. Do not send children to school with a fever. If a child has been vomiting or has had diarrhea, they must be kept home until they are symptom free and fever free for 24 hours.

Trinity will also follow the guidelines related to COVID-19 as provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Scott County Department of Health.

# AIDS POLICY

## Children-

- A student diagnosed as having AIDS or the AIDS virus (HIV) who is receiving medical attention is able to attend classes in an unrestricted setting. Siblings of an infected student are able to attend school with no restrictions.
- An alternate, more restrictive, educational plan will be established if the infected student becomes too ill to attend school, or if there is an increase in the likelihood of viral transmission. This plan will be devised by the student's physician, parent or guardian, public health personnel, and those associated with the educational setting on a case-by-case basis.

## School Employees-

- Each employee must be physically and mentally able to perform his or her duties and responsibilities, and must be free of any condition or disease which may be detrimental to the health and safety of students or fellow employees as determined by a licensed physician.
- Each instance will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The school physician/consultant along with the employee's physician shall determine if the employee is fit for service without risk of transmission. The administration will act on the advice of the health professional and make the final decision on continued employment.

# IMMUNIZATIONS

Iowa law requires certain immunizations before a child can attend school. Required immunizations are:

- DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus)
- Measles
- Rubella.

Provisional enrollment can be obtained if the child has begun immunizations and has received one dose of each of the required immunizations.

All preschoolers are required by the State of Iowa Health Department to have:

- 3 DPT immunizations
- 3 Polio vaccines
- And MMR immunizations before entering preschool.

Boosters for polio and DPT are not required until a child begins Kindergarten, but may be given any time after the age of four.

Iowa State law indicates the immunization for COVID-19 is not required to attend school.

# LEAD TESTING LAW

In Iowa there is a law which requires evidence of a blood lead test when children enter school. (i.e., before the age of 6 and provided to the elementary school in which the child is enrolling)

# DENTAL SCREENING LAW

Parents or guardians of elementary school children will be required to provide evidence of a dental screening (done no earlier than age three).

# MISC. PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Please send party invitations through the mail or via phone calls unless the entire class is to be invited. Please be considerate of the impact you will have on class dynamics if you invite most of the class, but exclude just a few.
2. Unless a teacher is specifically collecting it (such as for a book order), money is to be dropped off at the school office. Many of the other fees, such as field trips are collected through FACTS SIS.
3. The soda machine on campus is available to students after 3:00. It is not available before and during the school day.

# TRINITY LUTHERAN—STATEMENT OF FAITH

Trinity Lutheran Church School (TLCS) is operated by Trinity Lutheran Church (Church). The Church is a religious non-profit corporation holding membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LC-MS). Trinity Lutheran School is a school with a mission, but it is more than that. The Church considers TLCS to be a mission, one form of Christian mission to its members and to the community. LC-MS believe that the purpose of education is not only to prepare people for life in this world, but to make people wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. (1 Tim.3:15).

Christian beliefs, as understood and taught in the LC-MS, pervade everything that is done at Trinity. Christian instruction is integrated into the study of every subject. Students are immersed in a Christian atmosphere, surrounded by teachers, administrators, and school employees whose very presence is a testimonial to the Christian faith and way of life.

The Church, as a member of the LC-MS, takes firm stands on matters of moral conduct. For instance, the LC-MS affirms the sanctity of human life, including the life of an unborn child; the importance of a stable family life and of fidelity in marriage; and abstention from illegal drugs. The LC-MS opposes a homosexual lifestyle and cohabitation or sexual relations outside the marital relationship. These are only examples of the positions of the Church on a number of contemporary questions of conduct and morals.

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Trinity's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Pastors and Administrators have final interpretive authority on the Bible's application.

# NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Trinity Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, gender, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic status, or disability to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Furthermore, it does not discriminate in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. (NOTE: Equal opportunity in programs on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity does not

apply to accredited nonpublic schools when such qualifications are related to those of a bona fide religious purpose. All aspects of our education program will be in accordance with God's Word, the Lutheran Confessions, and the constitution and by-laws of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.)

## ENROLLMENT POLICY

Trinity Lutheran School is open to families who are supportive of our philosophy, objectives, and statement of beliefs. The purpose of this policy is to establish a system for acceptance and enrollment into Trinity that is consistent with the school's mission of providing a Christian Education to the children of our congregation and other children of the community. Trinity Lutheran School will admit students based on its nondiscrimination policy.

### **Class Size**

Kindergarten through 4th-grade classes shall be limited to 24 students. 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade shall be limited to 26 students per classroom. This number may be increased with principal and teacher approval under special circumstances and when the additional enrollment is determined to be manageable for that particular class. Preschool classes shall be limited in size based on the State of Iowa requirements.

### **Age Requirements**

A child must be three years of age and toilet trained by September 15 for that school year to enter the 3-year-old preschool program.

A child must be 4 years old by September 15 for that school year to enter the 4-year-old preschool program.

A child must be 5 years old by September 15 for that school year to enter the kindergarten program.

### **Entrance Screening**

All families of Kindergarten through eighth grades will begin the enrollment process with an Education Consultation with an administrator.

Generally, students entering a preschool class will not undergo specific screening.

New students entering Kindergarten will take an informal assessment with a teacher to determine developmental readiness. New students entering 1st through 8<sup>th</sup> grade must also take an entrance screening to help determine readiness and status for entering Trinity Lutheran School.

### **Enrollment Factors**

The Principal will use certain factors in determining the enrollment of new students. These factors/priorities are as follows:

- *All grade levels*--priority will be given to students whose parents express a desire for Christ-centered education for their child.
- *Preschool-3-year-olds*
  - 1st priority--Trinity members and children who have an older sibling already enrolled at Trinity.
  - 2nd priority--Sister Congregation members
  - 3rd priority--Families from the general public
- *Preschool-4-year-olds*
  - 1st priority--Trinity members and students who have been enrolled in our 3-year-old program
  - 2nd priority--Children who have an older sibling already enrolled at Trinity

- 3rd priority--Sister Congregation members
- 4th priority--Families from the general public
- *Kindergarten*
  - 1st priority--Trinity members and students who have been enrolled in our 4-year-old preschool program.
  - 2nd priority--Children who have an older sibling already enrolled at Trinity.
  - 3rd priority--Sister Congregation members.
  - 4th priority--Families from the general public.
- *Grades 1-8*
  - All students in grades Kindergarten through 7 are automatically re-enrolled for the next year. Parents are given the opportunity to withdraw at any time prior to the enrollment opening to the public. By doing this the child's name will be withdrawn for the coming school year and the family will avoid paying the registration fee.
  - New enrollees in grades 1-8 will be screened and admitted based on the priority levels outlined above in this policy.

### **Applicant Pool**

When applications exceed available space, applicants will be placed in an applicant pool (waiting pool). If a student is accepted for enrollment and the family changes their mind, the student will be removed from the applicant pool. A new application and fee must be submitted for future consideration.

### **Termination of Enrollment**

Any student may be dropped from enrollment for the following reasons:

- Persistence of an un-Christian attitude or behavior
- Disciplinary problems
- Academic concerns--including our inability to meet the educational needs of the student.
- Non-payment of tuition and fees.
- Lack of support for our program of Christian education
- Lack of developmental or academic readiness through approved testing procedures
- Lack of school attendance.
- Staffing or facility constraints.

# Appendix

## **Parent/Student Contract: to be completed electronically**

I have received a copy of the Family Handbook. I understand and accept the policies, procedures and rules in this Family Handbook.

Complete the form that is emailed to you.

# Trinity Lutheran School Technology Acceptable Use Policy, Students to be completed electronically

Computer resources are provided to help you learn. You can keep this privilege of using them by following the guidelines and rules below:

- To respect and protect the privacy of others a student must:
  - use only assigned accounts (3-8 grade).
  - not view, use or copy passwords that are not yours.
  - not distribute private information about others or themselves. This includes private information posted online (social media) from school or from home or other location.
- To respect and protect the integrity, availability, and security of all electronic resources a student must:
  - report any issues or violations to a teacher or administrator.
  - not destroy or damage network, data, equipment, or other resources that do not belong to them. This includes all laptops, computers, Chromebooks, iPads, and technology related hardware.
  - conserve, protect, and share resources with other students and Internet users.
- To respect and protect the intellectual property of others students must:
  - not infringe copyrights (do not make illegal copies of music, images, games, or movies).
  - not plagiarize.
- To respect and practice the principles of community students must:
  - communicate only in God-pleasing ways that are kind and respectful.
  - report discomforting information to a teacher.
  - not intentionally access, transmit, copy, or create material that violates the school's code of conduct (such as messages that are inappropriate, rude, discriminatory, or meant to harass).
  - not send spam, chain letters, or other mass unsolicited mailings.
  - not buy, sell, advertise, or otherwise conduct business, unless approved as a school project.
  - not attempt to harm, alter, disable, or destroy, and files, systems, or data that belongs to any other user. This includes changing information in group projects.
  - learn how to respect technology in a disciplined manner so that technology does not become a constant distraction that takes away from relationships and productivity.

## Supervision and Monitoring:

School and network administrators and their authorized employees monitor all use of information technology resources to help ensure that uses are secure and in conformity with this policy. Administrators reserve the right to examine, use, and disclose any data found on the school's information networks in order to further the health, safety, discipline or security of any student or other person' or to protect property. They may also use this information in disciplinary actions and will furnish evidence of crime to law enforcement. Trinity Lutheran School will cooperate fully with local, state, and/or federal officials in any investigation to any illegal activities conducted through the service.

## Summary of rules for students when using computers and other technology:

1. Use computers and other technology in a God-pleasing way.
2. Use computers and other technology when supervised by a teacher.
3. Do not disrupt or change other people's work on the computer.
4. Respect others' privacy and protect your privacy.
5. Do not change the computer settings.

6. Do not use the computer or other technology to share personal information with anyone else.
7. Share with your teacher anything that makes you uncomfortable or you think is not God-pleasing.
8. Do not eat or drink around any computers.
9. Give credit to someone when you use their words or ideas.
10. Have fun and use the computer to learn and grow!

Consequences:

Violation of these policies will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis under the direction of the Trinity Lutheran School staff and administration and appropriate action taken if necessary.

Depending on how serious the incident and the judgment of the staff and administration, any of the following consequences may occur:

1. Disciplinary action as described in the Family Handbook.
2. Individual access privileges may be suspended.
3. Individual access privileges may be revoked.

# Acceptable Use Policy Form

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

As the parent or legal guardian of the listed student, I understand that access is being provided to the student for education purposes only. I understand that it is impossible for Trinity Lutheran School to restrict access to all offensive and controversial materials and understand my child's or ward's responsibility for abiding by the regulation. By signing this Policy, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the School, Staff, and the Internet Provider against all claims, damages, losses, and costs, or whatever kind, that may result from my child's or ward's use of his or her access to such networks and his or her violation of the foregoing Policy.

Parents/guardians may be held accountable for damages and costs incurred by deliberate misuse and damage of the Technology Resources available to students.

I hereby give permission for my child/ward to use the TLS computers and grant the School use of my child's/ward's photographs, video, and/or student work on the School website, and in School publications.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I give my child/ward permission to access the internet for educational purposes.

**Complete the electronic form that is emailed to you!**

# School Counseling Ministry Informed Consent Form-Electronic Signature

## Introduction

Trinity Lutheran ChurchSchool is committed to providing quality education to its students. In an effort to achieve this goal, parents/guardians or school staff may refer students for counseling, or students may request counseling. The focus of the counseling ministry is to help students better understand the world they live in and make better decisions that help them live functional lives as children of God. There is no cost for counseling services at Trinity Lutheran ChurchSchool.

## Background

Trinity Lutheran ChurchSchool's school counselor is Mr. Nick Utech, who has a Master's Degree in School Counseling, is certified by several states (including Iowa) Department of Education as a School Counselor, and is a member of the ASCA (American School Counselor Association) and therefore abides by the ASCA standards and ethics. Mr. Utech has been an educator since 2004 and has experience as a Lutheran School Teacher as well as a public school counselor. Mr. Utech completed his Master's program through Concordia University, Wisconsin.

## Provisions of Services

It is the policy of Trinity Lutheran ChurchSchool to obtain parent/guardian written permission for individual counseling that extends beyond two sessions in a school year or that is planned on a regular basis. Services include intake assessment, short-term individual counseling, crisis intervention, group counseling, and referrals as needed.

I understand that school counseling services are aimed at the more effective education and socialization of my child within the school community. I understand that these services are not intended as a substitute for psychological counseling, diagnosis, or medication, which are not the responsibility of the school. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to determine whether additional or different services are necessary and whether to seek them for my child.

## Benefits/Risks

I understand that there may be both risks and benefits associated with participation in counseling. Counseling may improve my child's ability to relate with others, provide a clear understanding of himself/herself, interpreting the world around him/her as a Christian, along with values, goals, and an ability to deal with everyday stress. I understand that counseling may also lead to unanticipated feelings and change, which might have an unexpected impact on my child and his/her relationships.

## Confidentiality

In order to build trust with the child, the school counselor will keep information confidential with some possible exceptions. I understand that the counselor may share information with parents/guardians, the child's teacher, and/or administrators or school personnel who work with the child on a need to know basis, so that we may better assist the child as a team. The counselor is required by law to share information with parents or others in certain circumstances:

- There is serious danger presented to the child or another person
- Evidence or disclosure of abuse (physically or sexually) or neglect
- Threats to school security

- Criminal or delinquency proceedings are pending

The counselor will make the child aware of these limits of confidentiality and will inform the child when sharing information with others. If you would like the counselor to share information with a third party, such as a community counselor, psychiatrist, social services worker, or pediatrician, you will need to provide additional consent.

**Contact**

I understand that I am entitled to ask questions and receive information about methods or techniques used by the counselor and the length of counseling. I am free to seek a second opinion or end counseling at any time. Parents/Guardians should contact the school counselor or an administrator if there are questions or concerns about our counseling program.