

# St. Boniface Catholic Classical High School

## 2021-2022 Handbook

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Dear families, teachers and parents,

Welcome to this inaugural school year at St. Boniface Classical Catholic High School. As a community of Christ followers passionate about Catholic education, we are truly excited about beginning this new school year with your family. We have been blessed in these early steps toward opening our doors with an outpouring of support from interested teachers, parents, students and of course, our Pastor, Fr. George. As you may know, this school will be opening as a response to fill the void of education options for Catholic high school students in our area, combined with inspiration from our good Bishop Strickland's **Constitution on Teaching**. Regarding our call as Catholics to assist in the catechesis and formation of the next generations of souls to follow, Bishop Strickland urged his flock in 2017 to read his Constitution on Teaching with these words of encouragement:

"We will be a teaching diocese and I ask all people to read this constitution in a spirit of love for the Lord and His Church, pray and reflect on the role you can play, and join me in embracing the challenge of our day to go out to the world bearing the Light of Christ."

Driven and inspired by this spirit of love for our Lord and His Church through the means of providing Catholic education, **Catholic Nacogdoches** can now offer **St. Boniface Catholic Classical High School** as a community of faithful disciples, educators, leaders and parents to assist our youth in navigating through the storms of our modern day post-Christian society and cultural imbalance. As a school community, we seek to form the academic mind and the Catholic heart of our students, while providing support and a partnership between your family (the smaller domestic Church) and the larger St. Boniface Family. Thank you for being an important member of our family this first year and embracing this challenge with us!

Our teachers are dedicated to helping our students reach their full potential academically and spiritually while working in collaboration with parents to deliver on our mission of providing education enriched through faith and family. As the Director of Education at St. Boniface, I am committed to the mission of helping form the whole person of faith and reason in each student that we welcome. Our handbook contains valuable information that is important for our families to know and understand. It describes our vision, background, academic information, and policies/procedures. Please be sure to read it and reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for all the ways that together, we can enable our students to have a successful first year.

Prayerfully,  
Fr. George Elliott  
Pastor

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## **Purpose of This Handbook**

The purpose of this Handbook is to compile all necessary information about the daily running of St. Boniface Catholic High School for parents, students, and teachers/staff. Much of this involves procedures and policies designed to maintain a formative, faithful, safe environment for our students. Please read it carefully.

## **Vision**

Deum Amare, Veritatem Scire, et Bonem Facere.

*To love God, know the truth, and do the good.* (ending with a play on words of the name “Bonifacius”)

## **Mission Statement**

St. Boniface Catholic Classical High School is an apostolate of Catholic Nacogdoches. Our mission is to form Catholic missionary disciples, who are equipped to thrive and lead in the world and in the Church, through a rigorous Catholic classical education.

## **Pillars of St. Boniface High School**

1. Catholic Formation
2. Classical Education
3. Formation of the Person
4. Academic Rigor
5. Family Involvement
6. Affordable Cost

1. Catholic Formation: The mission of St. Boniface Catholic Classical High School is to form Catholic missionary disciples. The most important and central pillar of the school is its Catholicity. This cannot be sacrificed for any reason.
2. Classical Education: The method used at St. Boniface Catholic Classical High School to form Catholic missionary disciples, who are equipped to thrive and lead in the world and in the Church, is classical education.
3. Formation of the Person: In accord with the classical method, St. Boniface is not only interested in the students learning information and skills. St. Boniface aims to form the whole person, in their intellect, their will, and all of their faculties.
4. Academic Rigor: In order to thrive and lead in the world and in the Church, students must be pushed to their highest potential. Therefore, St. Boniface will push each student to the highest academic standards they can achieve.
5. Family Involvement: The formation of Catholic missionary disciples cannot be done only at school. The entire family must be involved in the formation of the students. St.

Boniface sees itself at the service of the parents who are primarily entrusted with the mission to form their students as missionary disciples.

6. **Affordable Cost:** High quality Catholic education is not the exclusive privilege of the well-to-do. St. Boniface strives to provide affordable and high quality education.

### **The Beginnings of St. Boniface**

In the spring of 2021, Fr. Elliott began speaking with a number of Catholic parents and teachers to study the needs of Catholic Nacogdoches in the area of education and formation. These conversations transformed into regular planning meetings to discern the best way to meet these needs for our community. Beyond identifying the necessity of filling this void, an educational curriculum method, graduation plan and teachers were selected. St. Boniface, the original Catholic lumberjack with a history of conquering paganism and idolatry in Germany, was selected as a patron saint.

### **Compliance with the Ethics & Integrity Policies from the Diocese of Tyler**

In a spirit of protective concern for our own students and in a desire to be compliant to our diocese's requirements, St. Boniface requires all teachers/staff and volunteers to meet the diocesan requirements for EIM compliance and encourages at least one parent of each family to do the same. This includes the Application for Ministry and attendance at an ethics and integrity workshop which includes a review of the ethics and integrity policies of the Diocese of Tyler. The course is held regularly in parishes throughout the diocese. You may refer to the Diocese of Tyler Ethics and Integrity in Ministry Office for further information about EIM at <https://www.dioceseoftyler.org/safe-environment/>.

### **Academic Information, Community Outreach & Individual Curriculum**

Individual student interests, learning styles, and knowledge are taken into consideration as administration and faculty design an appropriate curriculum for our students. St. Boniface enjoys the luxury of a low student/teacher ratio. This allows us to encourage student pursuit of individual interests, both within the school and through involvement in the wider community through internship arrangements, service projects and dual credit courses.

### **Homework**

Study hours are also scheduled into their school days, however, home study each week is needed to reinforce and advance a student's education. The students' responsibility is to ensure that this homework is completed, and brought to class.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards are issued at the end of each semester. Mid term grades will be available through the MODG website.

## **Withdrawing from St. Boniface**

At least two weeks prior to withdrawing a student from St. Boniface, parents must contact the school and set up an exit interview. No official records will be sent to a new school until all fees are cleared, including tuition.

## **Concurrent Enrollment**

High School students are encouraged to supplement St. Boniface course work with dual credit courses in order to gain a head start on their college careers and support any desired endorsement requirements. Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) offers concurrent/dual credit courses in our local community and in close proximity to our Sacred Heart campus. This means that high school credit is earned and official college credit is gained upon successful course completion. Colleges vary in their policy concerning acceptance of this college credit. Students must contact the college or university of choice to determine the number of transfer hours allowable. St. Boniface students are required to consult the school to determine the advisability of any concurrent enrollment course work.

## **Courses Taken at Other Institutions**

Under certain circumstances, and with detailed documentation, students may receive high school credit for courses undertaken at other institutions. Again, students must discuss such study with the school. Credit will always be dependent upon courses fulfilling the requirements of “Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills” and upon submission of an acceptable portfolio.

## **Graduation Requirements**

St. Boniface uses the Texas State Graduation Requirements as a guideline for graduation requirements.

## **Transportation**

Transportation to and from the school is the responsibility of each family. This includes dual credit courses at SFA.

## **Attendance and Absence**

The time spent at school is very important to a student’s progress. All non-emergency appointments, therefore, should be scheduled for either after classes or on non-St. Boniface class days. St. Boniface maintains complete attendance records. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain and make up all missed assignments.

Students may not arrive at Sacred Heart Catholic Church until 15 minutes prior to the start of classes. Students must be picked up within 15 minutes of the end of the school day. From the time when a student arrives in the parking lot, he or she must abide by St. Boniface rules, policies, and procedures. (Also see Transportation Contract of Enrollment Packet.)

## **Closed Campus**

Our students are precious; therefore, we operate a strict “closed campus” policy. Throughout the school day, including during breaks and lunches, students must remain on Sacred Heart premises unless otherwise scheduled for classes at SFA State University or an internship arrangement written into their schedule contract. Our teachers, administrators, and those that they authorize may, under certain circumstances, accompany students into the Church for Mass, adoration or into the gym or other parts of the campus. Students may never enter these areas without supervision and/or permission by St. Boniface faculty, administrators, or their delegates.

## **Parent Involvement**

St. Boniface expects parents to support their child’s education by:

- maintaining regular contact with the administration and faculty.
- overseeing completion of homework.
- establishing a suitable home-study environment for homework.
- encouraging regular habits of study.
- participating in St. Boniface functions including fundraising activities and Parent-Teacher Council Meetings.
- fulfilling their financial responsibility to St. Boniface.

Parents who are in compliance with our EIM policies are always welcome on our campus, and we are grateful for their involvement and interest. We also depend on parents volunteering for a wide variety of tasks and activities and trust that they will give serious consideration to such requests as they arise.

## **Supplies**

Students are required to purchase their own textbooks and supplies. Each teacher will furnish a list of books and supplies necessary for his/her classes.

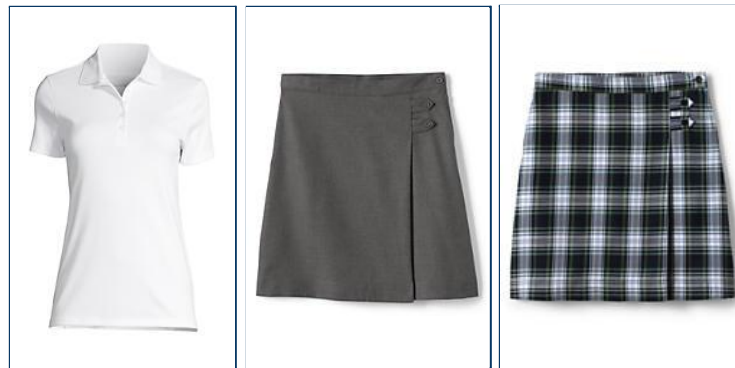
## **Dress Standards & Uniforms**

Clothing should be clean, neat, well-fitting, though not tight, in good repair, and modest in cost and appearance. It is important to dress for individual and collaborative learning and not for personal display. A conservative style is essential.





Young Men's Uniforms: School Uniform Kids Mesh Polo, School Uniform Boys Long Sleeve Oxford Dress Shirt & Boys Iron Knee Blend Plain Front Chino Pants in Gray



Young Ladies' Uniforms: Girls' Short Sleeve Feminine Fit Mesh Polo Shirt, School Uniform Girls' Short Sleeve Oxford Dress Shirt & Girls Solid Gray or Plaid A-line Skirt BELOW Knee

- Shirts: For school days, polo shirts with the St. Boniface logo must be worn. These may be ordered from Land's End. (Go to <https://www.landsend.com/> go to the School>Find Your School Menu, and use Our Preferred School Number: [REDACTED]. There is an additional fee for applying our logo to their shirt.) Shirts must be white. No sweatshirt/hoodie/sweater may cover the logo of school shirts while inside the building.
- Uniform Dresses/skirts/skorts: Dresses, skirts, & skorts must be an appropriate length. The minimum length of any garment, regardless of what it is called, must reach to at least below the knee.. Clothing like yoga pants, leggings, jeggings, or tights may not substitute as pants, but may be worn under other appropriate length skirts.
- Pants will be gray slacks style trousers
- Shoes: Safety and reliability are the primary considerations for shoes. Students may not wear flip flops or other open toed shoes nor strapless/backless shoes. Heels should not exceed two inches; comfortable black dress shoes are preferred.
- Jewelry/accessories: All jewelry/accessories must be safe, discreet, of modest value, and not distracting to other students.
- Hair: Hair must be clean and well-groomed. Idiosyncratic colors or styles are not allowed. Boys must wear their hair length above the collar and must always be clean-shaven.
- Makeup: Only female students may wear makeup. Makeup should be sheer, natural, and not draw attention.

- Miscellaneous: Hats and hoods may not be worn in classes. Oversized, ill-fitting, or military clothing and footwear are not acceptable. Clothing normally considered as pajamas is not acceptable as school attire. Outerwear must conform to the dress standards above.

In the event that a student is not following the dress code, the administrator/staff member should address the student in private to come up with a solution using the following guidelines:

- Give the student the option of removing articles and accessories that do not conform to the dress code.
- Allow the student to get another clothing item from his/her book bag and change.
- Refer the student to the St. Boniface staff.

Students will receive a verbal warning the first two weeks of school. After the first two weeks, any offense will be given a written warning and parents will be notified. A second offense will require the parent to come to school to provide the student with an appropriate article of clothing. The final decision regarding dress, appearance, and additional consequences rests with the St. Boniface staff.

### **Lunch Arrangements**

We ask that students bring food that is simple and quick to eat. Students will have access to a microwave for student lunches, which will be reserved to outdoor picnic tables and/or the Holy Family Hall within the Margil building. Please be considerate and remember that some strong aromas are distressing to others.

### **Weather Related Closings**

If classes are not to take place because of inclement weather, announcements will be made on the TV and Radio, according to the Nacogdoches Independent School District. St. Boniface will observe the same emergency closings as N.I.S.D. When the N.I.S.D. announces a two-hour delay in the class day, we will begin our school day at 10:00 am.

### **Immunizations**

All students attending St. Boniface must provide a current immunization history and/or serologic confirmation as required by Texas state law. On application, physicians will supply the appropriate form. Otherwise, students may provide a medical or religious waiver.

(<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/school-requirements.aspx>)

### **Cellular Phones**

Cellular phones must be switched off during the class days. No electronic device may be used without explicit permission from the classroom teacher including calculators, handheld games, iPhones, smartphones, etc.

## **Visitors**

We welcome visitors, however, please ask permission from the staff before the day on which the visit is planned. This policy is for the protection of students and the learning environment. Visitors are to check in at the parish office prior to proceeding to the school.

## **Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures**

St. Boniface expects high standards of behavior from its students that reflect wholehearted engagement in the enterprise of education. What follows identifies those attitudes and actions that are always incompatible with our educational objectives and, therefore, not permitted under any circumstances. This is a general code of behavior for St. Boniface and applies to all students both in and out of class. Individual teachers will have further requirements specific to their disciplines and classes. Students must at all times show respect for one another as well as for faculty, staff, and visitors. Everyone associated with St. Boniface is always expected to respect the property of Sacred Heart and the school.

The inspiration of our conduct at all times should be positive, as befits Christians. Our standard is nothing less than the example of Jesus himself: “have the same mind among you as was in Christ Jesus” (Phil.2.5).

The list below names behaviors that are unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action. (See below.)

## **Respect and General Safety**

- Language and gestures that are profane, abusive, or disrespectful are not permitted. The demeaning or mocking of others on the grounds of race, gender, sexuality, appearance, ability, individual characteristics, religious belief or political persuasion will not be tolerated.
- Disruptive behavior in class, aggressive behavior, or behavior likely to cause others harm or hinder their education will be disciplined.
- No violent or potentially violent games are permitted.
- Dangerous or potentially dangerous items (e.g. weapons, knives, chemicals, fireworks) may not be brought onto Sacred Heart premises.
- Actions that are disrespectful to the property of Sacred Heart or St. Boniface are not permitted.
- Leaving class without permission of the teacher.
- Eating or drinking in class is not allowed without the class teacher’s permission.
- Chewing of gum on Sacred Heart premises.
- Sexual harassment is entirely incompatible with a proper regard for others and will not be tolerated. The law defines sexual harassment as “unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature which

interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment." Students must refrain from all public displays of romantic affection.

### **Drugs and Alcohol**

- Except in the case of medications, drugs or controlled substances may not be brought onto Sacred Heart premises.
- Doctor note is needed to hold medications in the office.
- All use, possession, or selling of alcohol, nicotine, or illegal drugs is strictly forbidden. This zero tolerance policy also provides for serious disciplinary consequences for behavior or conversation that encourages drug use or is indicative either of usage or tolerance of usage.

### **Academic Conduct**

- Cheating, that is, the attempt to achieve favorable academic results by non-academic means will be disciplined.
- Plagiarism or the attempt to represent another's work as one's own, whether with or without permission, is forbidden. (Questions regarding the use and acknowledgement of library reference material, textbooks, and the internet should be directed to faculty.)

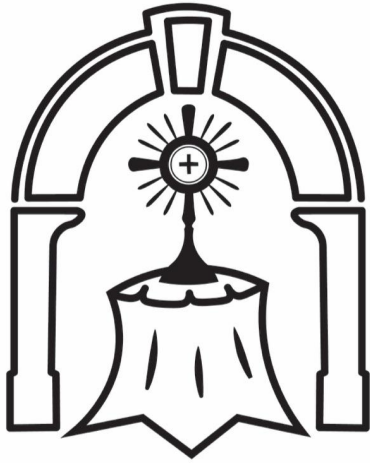
### **Disciplinary Procedures**

Infractions of the above code of conduct or any behaviors deemed by the administration to be injurious to the reputation or proper running of St. Boniface are subject to disciplinary action. St. Boniface reserves the right to require parents to remove their child from St. Boniface.

Steps for disciplinary action beyond the classroom:

1. Verbal warning to student by Director of Education,
2. Phone call to parents, one hour community service at the Parish,
3. Meeting with Teacher, Director of Education, Student and Parent, and Saturday 4 hour community service.

Please contact the St. Boniface staff if you have any questions regarding the contents of this handbook.



# St. Boniface Catholic Classical High School

## Handbook Agreement Form

I have read and agree to the St. Boniface Catholic Classical High School Handbook.

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Student

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Parent

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Parent

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Date