



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School
Code of Conduct
Grades 5-8

Our school atmosphere should always promote a safe learning environment for every student and exemplify the Roman Catholic beliefs on which our school is based. OLPH middle school has adopted a unified set of school rules and behavioral expectations. Our unified rules throughout every middle school class and school function follow the acronym **S.O.A.R.** and are as follows:

S

SELF-CONTROL (be patient, stay seated, hands and feet to self, make good choices, play fair, wait your turn)

O

ON-TASK (be an independent thinker, go directly to your destination, follow directions)

A

ACCEPTANCE (listen to others, be a cooperative learner, include others and treat them the way you want to be treated)

R

RESPECT (be on time, avoid interrupting, use manners, respect others' choices and personal space, be kind)

To ensure that everyone's rights are respected, demerits will be issued when the actions of any individual fails to meet the general expectations; therefore, students and parents will be notified of any infractions of the code of conduct.

Please note: All foreseeable problems cannot be determined at this time; therefore, the principal may take into consideration actions deemed necessary for any behavior reported which violates the philosophy of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, even if not specified in this plan.

Student conduct and demerit notation for events occurring at school:

I. Student Behavior – 1 demerit

- Failure to bring books or needed supplies to class
- Incomplete or no homework (Homework is considered a short-term assignment in which the student has one-two days to complete. When students are given three or more days, demerits are increased.)
- Speaking out of turn or failure to raise hand to make a comment
- Failure to follow directions or requests (including off-task behavior)
- Leaving laptop unattended
- Neglecting to return laptop to assigned charging station at dismissal
- Improper transport of electronic equipment (not using “messenger bag” style to carry laptop or moving laptop while it’s not in its case)
- Horseplay
- Chewing gum
- Eating at non-permitted times
- Littering (inside or outside, including the lunchroom)
- Tardy to Class
- Uniform policy or dress code for each infraction (including dress down)
- Signed papers not turned in within 3 school days (each additional day late will incur an additional demerit).
*Parents may send a note or an email stating that they have seen a paper, test/quiz, or other document sent home.

II. Student Behavior – 3 demerits

- Disruptive or inappropriate behavior in any area of the school or church
- Leaving classroom, after-school pick-up line, or playground without permission
- Avoiding participation during Mass including singing and responses
- Homework incomplete (assignments with three or more days to complete)
- Projects not turned in on time

III. Student Behavior – 5 demerits

- Leaving the school building or school grounds
- Disrespect toward other students in word or action (includes name-calling)
- Inappropriate language
- Irreverence during prayer
- Writing on walls, desk, bathroom stalls, etc.
- Failure to comply with any drill or safety procedure
- Hitting, kicking, or any other physical action toward another student done in a “joking” matter
- Laptop infractions (includes one day suspension of laptop)
 - Accessing unauthorized/unapproved internet sessions/sites
 - Defacing laptop or carrying case
 - Unauthorized use of laptop (logging on without permission)
 - Unauthorized gaming or engaging in off-task activities

IV. Student Behavior – 10 demerits or more (possible principal referral)

- Disrespect to faculty, staff, or other adult
- Leaving school-sponsored field trip without permission.

- Irreverence during liturgical services or events (Mass, Stations of the Cross, Adoration, etc.)
- Cheating or plagiarism (will result in a grade of 0 or no credit)
- Offensive, derogatory or vulgar language (including drawings, Pictures or gestures)
- Damage to school, church, or personal property
- Safety of any student, staff, class, or the school is compromised
- Forgery or stealing
- Use of electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, hand-held games, etc. or any other device not deemed appropriate for school use (item will be turned in to the office or principal and the parent may pick up the item).

V. **Student Behavior - Harassment or Bullying**

Bullying or harassment, depending on severity, will result in demerits and a principal referral. The number of demerits given may vary according to circumstances and teacher /administration discretion.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help has a zero tolerance for bullying and harassment. Our school defines bullying as follows: Bullying is unfair and one-sided. It happens when someone hurts, frightens, threatens, or leaves someone out on purpose. Harassment is repeatedly bothering or badgering someone.

Examples of bullying and harassment could include but are not limited to:

- Hitting, kicking, tripping, or pushing when force is involved
- Teasing or talking to someone in a hurtful way through words, gestures or actions
- Spreading rumors / gossiping
- Excluding someone by purposefully leaving them out or trying to get others not to play or socialize with them

Examples of bullying or harassment that will result in a *principal referral* could include, but are not limited to:

- Hurting someone physically
- Stealing or damaging another's personal things
- Ganging up on a person or making threats
- Using put-downs, such as insulting someone's race, culture, gender, size, appearance, or intelligence
- Inappropriate touching (which includes handholding and hugging among students)
- Any actions, whether stated or implied, that are considered highly inappropriate or offensive in nature and are inconsistent with school policies or the philosophy of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Consequences for accumulation of demerits.

10 demerits:

- Loss of S.O.A.R. party

20 demerits

- Detention
- Parent conference

30 demerits

- Detention
- Parent conference

40 demerits

- Parent conference
- 1 day in-school suspension

50 demerits

- Parent conference
- 2 days in-school suspension

More than 50 demerits

- Principal referral

Parents will receive an email regarding events recorded as demerits. There are no consequences for the student until they reach ten demerits.

At the end of every quarter, students with less than ten demerits will be able to participate in the S.O.A.R. party

Students begin each quarter with zero demerits; however, parent conferences, in-school suspension, and principal referral are based on demerits accumulated throughout the year.

Important Note: Consequences may be adjusted if accumulation of numerous detentions occurs in a short period of time. More severe consequences may be deemed necessary as determined by the principal.

Detentions will be determined on the first of every month. Please note, since detentions are determined only once a month, it is possible that a student may have more than one detention to serve. A notice of detention will be sent home to be signed by a parent for the detention notice date. If a student does not return signed note, they will receive a demerit each day the note does not get signed. Detentions will be served on Thursdays in an assigned classroom; students are to be picked up at 4:00. Parents must not disturb detention; therefore, parents are requested to remain in the parking lot, and students will be dismissed to leave with their parent. Students who are not picked up at 4:00 will be taken to after-school care at the parents' expense. Billing will be handled by the after-school care administrator.

Detention must be served on the date given. Detention will not be deferred for sports practice or other activities in which the student is involved. Any student who does not show up for detention will receive additional detention and will be referred to the principal for an administrative decision on further consequences. If emergency circumstances arise, the parent must contact the school administration and receive approval for the detention to be deferred. The principal will inform teachers in the event of a deferred detention.

If a student has more detentions than can be served in a given period, Saturday detention may be given.

Code of Conduct for Grades 5-8
Student and Parent Acknowledgement

I have read the Code of Conduct for grades 5 - 8 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. I understand that the rules and guidelines are for all teachers in grades 5-8 rather than having separate rules for each teacher.

Please sign and date below:

_____	_____	_____
Printed student name	Student signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Printed parent name	Parent signature	Date

* Return to the student's homeroom teacher **no later** than **Wednesday, August 31 2016**.