



Family Handbook 2016-2017

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WELCOME TO GROSS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

This Parent Handbook is provided for informational purposes only, and does not in any manner constitute a contractual agreement between Gross Catholic High School and any student (or any parent of any student). Any information contained in this Handbook provides a general description of rules and regulations. Gross Catholic High School follows the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and reserves the right to add to, modify, or abolish the enclosed rules and regulations at any time, with or without notice. Nonenforcement of any of the enclosed rules and regulations shall not act as a waiver of their future enforcement. This Handbook does not create any restriction upon Gross Catholic High's right to institute any course of disciplinary action which, in Gross Catholic High's sole discretion, it believes is necessary and consistent with its Catholic and educational mission.

MISSION STATEMENT

Gross Catholic High School is a faith and family based community committed to developing Christian leaders through educational excellence in the Marianist tradition.

MOTTO

Dux Esto, the school motto, means "Be a Leader." Students are challenged, encouraged and entrusted with a variety of responsibilities through which they can grow intellectually, spiritually, athletically, emotionally and socially.

HISTORY

In the late 60's Archbishop Bergan wanted to build an Archdiocesan high school to accommodate the needs of the Catholic communities of northern Sarpy County and southwest Omaha. He invited the Marianist Priests and Brothers and the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help to bring their religious charisms to Omaha. Today the mission of education is continued by a very dedicated group of Christian lay women and men, and Diocesan clergy.

The late Daniel J. Gross, a prominent Catholic Omaha attorney, died in the 1960's. He and his wife, Louise Ortman Gross, had always been firm supporters of Catholic education. Mrs. Gross donated a substantial financial gift for the building of the new high school. In gratitude, the school was named after her late husband. On August 10, 1967, the late Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan blessed the cornerstone of a new Catholic high school for the Archdiocese of Omaha. On September 3, 1968, that school opened its doors to a freshman class of 175 students. In 1968, few people outside the immediate vicinity knew about the Cougar family, Cougar pride or Cougar spirit. Today, the name of Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School is synonymous with Christian Community, academic excellence, athletic achievement, and a tradition of outstanding school spirit and pride.

MARIANIST SPONSORSHIP

As of March 18, 2004, Gross Catholic High School officially became sponsored by the Marianist Province of the United States. We are dedicated to promoting the five characteristics of Marianist education. They are:

- Educate for formation in faith
- Provide an integral, quality education
- Educate in family spirit
- Educate for service, justice, and peace
- Educate for adaptation and change

We say the following Marianist prayers at activities and during school. We invite our parents to participate with us when we say these prayers.

MARIANIST PRAYERS

Marianist Doxology

May the Father and the Son
And the Holy Spirit
Be glorified in all places
Through the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

Three O'clock Prayer

Lord Jesus,
We gather in the spirit at the foot of the Cross
With your Mother and the disciple whom you loved.
We ask your pardon for our sins
Which is the cause of your death.
We thank you for remembering us
In that hour of salvation
And for giving us Mary as your Mother.
Holy Virgin, take us under your protection
And open us to the action of the Holy Spirit.

Saint John, obtain for us the grace of taking
Mary in our lives as you did,
And of assisting her in her mission.

May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be
Glorified in all places through the
Immaculate Virgin Mary.

Amen.

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GROSS CATHOLIC ADVISORY BOARD

ADVISORY BOARD STRUCTURE

The Gross Catholic Advisory Board assists school administration by reviewing and evaluating the philosophy and goals of the school, reviewing the annual budget, by-laws, auditor reports, ensuring long-range planning and implementation, and providing the president with competent counsel. The advisory board meets six times per year in August, October, December, February, April, and June. The Gross Catholic Advisory Board has created subcommittees to help complete the work of the advisory board.

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEES

Each subcommittee has a specified purpose and works as a part of the advisory board. Subcommittees are made up of community, staff, and board members. Each subcommittee has a schedule of meeting times throughout the year. The subcommittees are advisory to the Administration/Advisory Board on broad issues. A list of the subcommittees is provided below.

- **Alumni**
- **Building and Grounds**
- **Education**
- **Development**
- **Finance**
- **PR/Marketing**
- **Recruitment**
- **Endowment Foundation**

ADMISSION/ACADEMICS/SCHEDULING

ADMISSION

Gross Catholic High School admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origins to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities, generally accorded or made available to students at this school. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. Students must have completed the 8th grade and agree to adhere to the inherent principles of a Catholic high school.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

As a general rule, Gross Catholic High School will accept transfer students if the following criteria are met:

1. Students moving to Omaha from out of town
 - Any family who moves to the Omaha area may enroll their children at any time if an appropriate academic program can be designed.
2. Students transferring from an Omaha area metro high school
 - Transfers may enroll only at a natural break in the school calendar (i.e., beginning of year, beginning of a semester).
 - Student must be making reasonable progress towards graduation as defined by requirements completed and credits earned in line with their grade level.
 - Student's attendance record must be consistent with Gross Catholic policy which allows no more than eight absences the previous semester.
 - Student may not have been expelled from previous school.
 - Second-semester seniors are not accepted.
3. Responsibilities of transfer student
 - At the time of registration the family of the transfer student has the responsibility to provide Gross Catholic High School with the records and transcripts from the student's previous school.
4. Honor courses
 - If an honors course is not offered to Gross Catholic students, honors weight will not be awarded for the transfer credit, but the course will be designated as an honor course on the permanent transcript.

RE-ADMISSION POLICY

Any student who is returning to school after an extended period of time due to treatment, from any place which offered alternative education programs during treatment (such as hospitals, treatment centers, clinics, etc.), must request that the institution releasing the student provides a staffing for the appropriate personnel at Gross Catholic High School so that we may facilitate academic progress and/or rehabilitation.

SCHEDULING

The required class load for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors is seven (7) classes per semester and seven (7) credits per year. All seniors are required to be enrolled in six (6) classes per semester and six (6) credits per year. Each student is encouraged to take courses that will give him/her the best possible educational experience and may choose to take more than the minimum class load.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

The school year is divided into four quarters; progress reports are usually mailed during the fifth week of the quarter and report cards are mailed at the end of each quarter.

Graduation requirements are as follows:

Theology	4.0
English	4.0
Math	3.0
World Language	2.0
Life Science (includes Biology, Advanced Biology, AP Biology, Anatomy/ Physiology)	1.0
Earth Science (includes Physical Science, Environmental Science, Earth Science, Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics, AP Physics)	1.0
Science Elective (listed above)	1.0
World History	1.0
American History	1.0
American Government	0.5
Social Studies Elective (includes World Geography, Sociology, Psychology, Criminal Justice, AP World History)	0.5
Physical Education	1.0
Communication, Visual Arts, Performing Arts (Speech, Yearbook, Band, Choir, and all Art classes)	0.5
Technology (includes Intro to Technology for Business, Engineering 1, and Intro to Yearbook)	0.5
Electives	4.0
Service Hours	1.0
Total Required Credits	25

SERVICE HOURS

Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, each student will be placed into a class titled “Service Hours.” This course is a .25 credit course and will receive a pass/fail grade based on completion of the service requirements. Freshmen (20): Sophomores (25): Juniors (30): Seniors (35). The grade will not affect the student’s GPA.

All obligations for seniors must be met by the designated day, prior to graduation in order to participate in graduation practice. This does not apply to tuition payments that will be automatically withdrawn in May.

DROPPING A CLASS

Any student who withdraws from a course before the sixth week of a semester will receive a "WP" (Withdraw Passing) or "WF" (Withdraw Failing). A "WP" or "WF" does not affect the student's GPA; however, it is reported on the student's transcript. Any student who withdraws from a course after the sixth week of the semester will receive an "F" for the course and it will be factored into the student's GPA.

SCHEDULE CHANGE

After a student has completed the registration process, there will be \$10.00 change of schedule fee payable at the time of the requested change, unless the change is advised through mutual consent by the school and the student.

WAIVING CREDITS

Under no circumstances may a state requirement be waived. However, those requirements unique to Gross Catholic High School may be waived by petitioning in writing for a waiver to the principal. Required courses are seldom waived and exceptions are only made for valid reasons.

CLASS FAILURES

Failures in required courses are generally made up by repeating the courses at Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School; however, a maximum number of two credits taken outside of Gross Catholic will be accepted.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

As a general rule incompletes are not issued. In the case where an incomplete is issued with the consultation of an administrator, the student may only have until the next grading period to make up the incomplete work and finish the class. If the work is not completed the course will be marked as a failure. Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis and will be determined by the administration.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Any student failing two or more courses for a semester will be placed on academic probation. If, at the end of the next semester, the student continues to receive a failing grade, and/or is not making reasonable progress towards graduation, continuation at Gross Catholic High School will be evaluated.

STUDY HALL

Students who have an F or more than one D at the end of any grading period will be placed on a progress report and in a mandatory guided study hall during their study period. Study hall is considered class time and class attendance rules apply. Other students whose academic program may benefit from a study hall may be placed in a study hall by their counselor.

STUDY PERIOD

Time within a student's day which is unscheduled should be spent studying and completing homework in the media center or the commons. To ensure a safe, secure learning environment, all students are required to report to the commons supervisor for all periods except 5th and to the media center supervisor for 5th period at the beginning of their study period. Students need to sign out with the supervisor to indicate where they are going if leaving the commons or media center.

COMMONS

The commons is designed as a place for all students to have time to study together, relax and socialize. It is an area used by students throughout the school day and after school for various activities. All students are responsible for keeping the commons clean and orderly.

MEDIA TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The Media Technology Center is a place for research and quiet study. Appropriate behavior is expected. Computers are to be used for academic purposes only.

LUNCH

Each student is assigned a 25 minute lunch during 5th period. Students may choose to bring lunch from home, purchase a lunch from the vendor of the day, or purchase food from the vending machines. Lunch is to be eaten in the commons during the designated lunch period for the student. As a general rule, students should not be in the academic hallway or in classrooms during lunch period.

TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts are the permanent records of all semester grades and college entrance test scores. These include grades, grade point averages, class rank, credits earned, attendance figures, and standardized test scores. This record is the property of the school and a copy may be requested by the student. Official transcripts will be prepared and released only by mutual consent from the student and/or legal guardian and school officials. Transcripts contain only information regarding the academic assessment of a student.

STUDENT RECORDS

Student records are considered confidential and contain standardized test scores, general background information, and the student's grades.

SEMESTER EXAMS/ASSESSMENTS

Semester exams/assessments are given in all courses. A special time will be scheduled for semester exams or major project evaluations. Exceptions may be granted by the administration. Students may be withheld from semester examinations due to outstanding financial obligations and will be issued an incomplete for all courses until financial obligations are met.

SPECIAL CAREER PROGRAM

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering – PLTW is the nation's leading provider of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs. The engineering curriculum at Gross Catholic teaches students to apply math and science concepts to solve engineering problems. Students develop their skill by participating in the hands-on curriculum and completing engineering projects.

GRADING SCALE

The following grading scale is suggested for each class. As educational professionals, teachers may adjust the grading scale for specific classes.

93 – 100 = A

85 – 92 = B

78 – 84 = C

70 – 77 = D

69 or below = F

GPA CALCULATION

Grading points will be given as follows:

A = 4 Points; B = 3 Points; C = 2 Points; D = 1 Point

Grading points will be given as follows for courses designated Honors or A.P. Courses:

A = 5 Honor Points; B = 4 Honor Points; C = 3 Honor Points; D = 1 Point

Honors / Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:

Honors English 2	AP American History
Honors English 3	AP American Government
AP English 4	AP Spanish
Honors Pre-Calculus with Trig	AP Biology
AP Calculus	AP Physics
Honors Calculus II/III	Honors Chemistry
AP Statistics	AP Chemistry
Honors World History	AP Computer Science

HONOR ROLL

High honors will be awarded to students maintaining a 3.75 - 4.0+ average. Honors will be awarded to students maintaining a 3.25 - 3.74 average. No D's, F's, or U's are permitted for either honor.

RECOGNITION DAY AWARDS

Every spring a Recognition Day is scheduled to give recognition to our senior class for their accomplishments and scholarships. It is also a time to recognize underclassmen who exhibit academic ability, character, and leadership. The following awards are given to students at this assembly.

Man of the Year: Awarded to a highly regarded senior who has demonstrated the gift of Self, Leadership, Family Spirit, Concern for Others and the School, Academic Success, and Basic Integrity.

Woman of the Year: Awarded to a highly regarded senior who has demonstrated the gift of Self, Leadership, Family Spirit, Concern for Others and the School, Academic Success, and Basic Integrity.

Brother Leo Willet Award: Awarded to the senior girl and boy who over their four years, have shown a high degree of generosity and willingness to serve others and the school. This award is named after the first principal of Gross Catholic, Brother Leo Willet.

Gross High Spirit Scholar Award: Awarded to the senior girl and boy who over four years, have shown academic excellence and provided spirit to our Cougar Family.

Most Representative Girl and Boy: Awarded to students selected from each grade by their peers as being the kind of classmate that is most admired and respected.

Spirit Scholar Award: Awarded to students selected from each grade as excelling in both academics and the promotion of school spirit throughout the year.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Gross Catholic is committed to fostering and supporting the academic growth of all students throughout their four years of high school. The Guidance Department works diligently with students, parents, teachers, and administrators to promote academic success for all students through educational planning, course selection, testing, and academic monitoring.

Each student is assigned an academic counselor. Students may make an appointment to meet with any of the counselors at anytime throughout the year. The Guidance Department is responsible for academic progress, testing, career counseling, college placement, and personal/social counseling.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

At different points of their high school careers, students may need additional academic support. The following programs are in place to assist students and help them be academically successful at Gross Catholic.

Student Success Coordinator

A student success coordinator is in place at Gross Catholic High School. This teacher works with students who may need assistance with organization, testing, reading, or other academic supports. Students who need these supports are placed with the student success coordinator.

Study Skills Class

Study Skills is a class that students may voluntarily take for credit. The class is structured in such a way that students not only work on homework assignments as they would in a study hall, but they practice the following concepts and skills: note-taking, study habits, goal-setting, prioritization, organization, and time-management. Each of these concepts is reinforced through daily interaction with the teacher and student progress is monitored with weekly reports to parents.

Academic Progress Reports

Parents have the capability of monitoring their son or daughter's academic progress through PowerSchool. However, parents may choose to use an academic progress report. The progress report allows teachers to communicate a student's grade, behavior, and assignment completion to parents on a weekly basis. Progress reports are required for determining eligibility for selected students participating in athletics and activities.

Additional Resources

Students are encouraged to take advantage of not only the assistance of their teachers, but also the many academic supports offered at Gross Catholic. However, if more extensive help is needed, you may contact the counselors at Gross Catholic for information and recommendations regarding outside resources.

ACADEMIC TESTING

The academic program at Gross Catholic includes the opportunity for students to take nationally normed tests. These tests are administered to students as described under each test below.

ACT ASPIRE

- Administered to all freshman and sophomores in the fall semester.
- Curriculum-based educational program for 9th and 10th graders that measures achievement in English, math, reading, and science.
- Serves as the midpoint measure of academic progress in ACT's College and Career Readiness System.

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)

- Administered to sophomores and juniors who wish to take it in the fall semester.
- Measures reading, math reasoning, and writing skills.
- Serves as practice for the SAT.
- Juniors who take the test may qualify to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation programs.

ACT

- Administered throughout the year on selected dates at Gross Catholic.
- Used for admission and scholarship consideration at most colleges/universities.
- Consists of four sections: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning.

SAT

- Administered throughout the year on selected dates elsewhere.
- Used for admission and scholarship consideration at most colleges/universities.
- Consists of three sections: Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing.

AP (Advanced Placement)

- Students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes may elect to take AP exams in several subjects.
- Students may earn college credits through the AP program. Credits are dependent upon both the scores earned by students and the AP credit policy of the college/university at which a student enrolls.
- Administered during the first two weeks of May.

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Freshman Year College Preparation

- Develop good study skills. Take notes, use a planner, and stay organized.
- Become involved in activities. Extracurricular activities are a great way to meet people, explore interests, and develop a resume.
- Think about different careers that interest you. You will want to take classes to explore those interests.
- Most importantly, do well in school! When you register for sophomore year, take challenging classes and develop a plan for the next three years. Talk to your teachers and counselor for assistance.

Sophomore Year College Preparation

- Continue to do well in school.
- Stay involved and try to take on responsibilities in your activities.
- Consider taking the PSAT in October.
- Use your resources. Teachers and counselors are here to help you.

Junior Year College Preparation

- Junior year is extremely important academically because colleges will scrutinize your academic record for admission and scholarship consideration.
- If you are a high-achieving student, you should take the PSAT in October. The National Merit Scholarship Program uses this test to determine awards.
- Begin researching colleges that interest you.
- Begin a resume. Keep track of your volunteer work and take leadership roles when possible. Be involved!
- Start your college visits. It is extremely important to visit college campuses to have a feel for the school and learn more about it.
- You will need to take the ACT test if you are planning on attending a four-year school. Consider the February, April, or June tests. Be sure to choose four schools where you would like to have your test scores sent.
- In the spring, visit with college representatives.
- Attend College Night for Juniors during spring conferences.
- When you register for senior year, consider take several challenging classes so that you will be best prepared for college.
- Meet with your counselor as often as needed and ask lots of questions.

Senior Year College Preparation

- You are in the home stretch your senior year. All your hard work will pay off, but you must continue to focus on completing the process.
- Continue to work on your grades. Give your academic classes serious attention.
- Retake the ACT in September, October, and/or December. Most schools will not accept test scores for scholarship/admissions consideration after the December test. Also, remember schools will take the highest test score.
- Read the weekly Care Package sent by the counselors. The newsletter contains vital information about college visits, scholarships, and all guidance news.
- Visit with college representatives in the fall. Begin to narrow your college choices.
- Attend the Catholic College Fair at school.
- Update your résumé.
- Attend the College Fair at UNO in October.
- Request letters of recommendation if needed.
- Attend Money for College Night during fall conferences.
- Request your PIN for the FAFSA.
- Apply to all schools by December 1 (unless an earlier deadline is specified).
- Fill out the FAFSA anytime after January 1.
- Scholarships, scholarships, scholarships! Most deadlines are during March and April, but pay attention to deadlines and directions.
- Expect award letters from colleges in April.
- Decide which college you would like to attend by May 1 (most require a deposit).

Frequently Asked Questions



What is Gross Catholic's CEEB code? The code is 281-712.

How do I choose the right college? Choosing the right school will be one of the most important decisions you will make and it isn't always easy. Don't worry, there are over 3,000 schools in the United States and you can find one that is right for you. Each student should choose the right college based on academics, size, location, price, and major to meet his/her need. Students should begin researching schools and learning about what each school has to offer. Many colleges schedule visits to Gross Catholic. This is a wonderful opportunity

to find out about these schools and pick up some materials. Check the college visit calendar on Edline for the schedule. Most importantly, students need to visit schools during their junior and senior years.

What if I want to play sports in college? If you want to play sports at a Division I/II school then you must meet the NCAA requirements. You will also need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. If you want to play sports at a NAIA school, then you must apply with the NAIA Eligibility Center.

When should I start applying to college? Seniors should begin applying to schools around September 1 and plan to have all applications completed by December 1. Some schools have early admission dates, so students need to check with each school to determine the deadline.

How do I find out about scholarships? There are many resources for finding scholarships. One of the best resources is our Senior Care Package. The newsletter is distributed in English class almost every week. Students can earn scholarships through their activities, employment, parents' employment, clubs, and activities. Additionally, there are many other resources that can be found in the Guidance Office.

How do I apply for college? Almost all schools use online applications. First, you must go to the school's website and apply. Many schools charge a fee for the application. After the online application is completed, students fill out a transcript request form in the Guidance Center. Once the college has received all of the information, an admission decision is mailed to the student.

What is the Common Application? The Common Application is a university application that can be sent to over 300 schools in the United States. Currently, the only school in Nebraska accepting the Common Application is Creighton University. This is a useful tool for students who are considering out-of-state schools.

When should I take the ACT? Students should consider taking the ACT Test in the spring of their junior year and then again in the fall of their senior year. Typically, schools will accept the highest score through the December test of the student's senior year.

When do I have to choose a school? Schools require a deposit by May 1 of senior year.

Where do I learn about financial aid? Financial Aid is considered to be scholarship, grants, and loans giving by the school, organizations, and the federal government. Parents and students can learn about financial aid during our College Information Nights, through EducationQuest, or by speaking with a counselor.

When is the FAFSA due? The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) can be completed after January 1 of the student's senior year and many schools have priority dates sometime in March.

COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHTS

Senior College Information

During the fall, parents are invited to attend a presentation on Money for College, an informational session for seniors and their parents. The focus is on financial aid, how to apply, where to find aid, and the senior timeline. Dates and locations are e-mailed to parents and students.

Junior College Night

During spring Parent-Teacher Conferences in February, the Guidance Department staff will present Junior College Night, an informational session for juniors and their parents. The night focuses on senior year, the application process, scholarships, financial aid, and timelines.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE

Gross Catholic High School reports scholarships won by seniors to the Omaha World-Herald and the Bellevue Leader for publication. Scholarships are listed in the graduation bulletin and announced and listed for Recognition Day. Copies of award letters should be given to the Guidance Office as they are received. To avoid any misunderstanding, students and parents should ask for written verification from all scholarship providers. Verbal offers and pre-award scholarship letters will not be listed. Students must have applied to the college and been accepted for the scholarship to be listed.

COMMUNICATION

POWERSCHOOL

PowerSchool is an easy to use, web-based student information system. It is intended to provide parents and teachers with a tool to communicate student performance. PowerSchool may be accessed from any place the parent/guardian can access the Internet. The application is a secure link that encrypts the data to and from the end user. In addition, a username and password are provided to allow access for only authorized users to the appropriate student record.

SCHOOL CLOSING

Gross Catholic is part of the Archdiocese of Omaha Schools. In the case of inclement weather, Gross Catholic will follow the Archdiocese of Omaha in closing school. A separate announcement will not be made for Gross Catholic. Local television and radio stations will broadcast any school closings.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin will be published on Fridays for the next week. It will have our announcements, weekly schedule of events and upcoming events. Parents can look at the weekly bulletin by going to the website www.grosscatholic.org and scrolling over the “About Us” menu to click the item “Weekly Bulletin”. It will also be available as a link in PowerSchool.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

For details about the school, students, teachers, schedules, daily events, and other information, parents can search the website www.grosscatholic.org. Parents can also follow gross catholic on twitter @GCHScougars and on facebook at Gross Catholic High School.

STUDENT TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

MARCH FOR LIFE

In January the Archdiocese of Omaha arranges a trip to Washington DC to March for Life in protest of the Supreme Court’s decision in Rowe v Wade to legalize abortion. Students take a faith journey starting at a parish in Omaha with mass and riding a bus from Omaha to Washington DC. Students and chaperones participate in activities designed to enhance the faith experience. The culminating event of the trip is the March for Life where students and chaperones join with people from around the country to march peacefully in Washington DC to support life. Interested students should contact faculty member **Dan Connelly**.

SENIOR GOVERNMENT D.C. TRIP

The senior government classes are offered the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to explore firsthand how our government works. The students tour the museums and memorials on the mall. They also take a guided tour of congress and meet one of Nebraska’s congressmen or senators. For more information contact Tim Powers.

FRESHMAN HOLOCAUST MUSEUM TRIP

The freshmen English classes explore the terrible human tragedy of the holocaust in the literature they read. They are also given an opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to explore the holocaust museum. This gives them an experience that is unforgettable. For more information contact faculty member Yvonne Carson.

SERVICE TRIP

Juniors and Seniors are offered the opportunity to take a service trip in the fall and the spring. Students have worked in neighborhoods rebuilding houses, helping paint, fixing fences among other things. The life-changing trip offers students the opportunity to help poor and underprivileged people in our world. Living out the characteristic of a Marianist education, "To Educate for Service, Justice, and Peace".

GROSS CATHOLIC TRADITIONS

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Every year Gross Catholic High School celebrates Catholic Schools Week as a part of our Catholic tradition. We celebrate our community by having a mass with the students at St. Bernadette grade school. This mass is attended by our parents and community. We also plan a day for parents to have lunch with their student. Parents bring lunch to their student during this special day to celebrate our 'Family Spirit'

FOUNDERS WEEK

Founder's week is celebrated annually at Gross Catholic, and we commemorate Blessed Father William Joseph Chaminade's feast day on January 22. We honor our Marianist Family heritage and explore the Marianist Charisms for Education. Each day features special events. A member of our community says a special Marianist prayer reflection. The student Marianist LIFE group collects donations for our service project. Students also have the opportunity to "Find Fr. Chaminade" for fun and prizes!

PRAYER LIFE

Daily prayer in front of Mary

Every morning at 7:25 Gross Catholic will start off with a prayer in front of the Mary statue in the commons hallway. All students and staff are invited to attend this prayer. This is a way to pray for our community and establish the habit of prayer.

Morning Prayer

Before first period Gross Catholic will say a prayer over the intercom and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. All students are expected to be respectful of the prayer and pledge.

3 O'clock Prayer

In the tradition of the Marianist, Gross Catholic stops to pause after lunch for the 3 o'clock prayer. This is a prayer that all Marianists say during this hour. At that time announcements are also given for the day.

CODE OF CONDUCT

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

The possession or use of alcohol, drugs or inhalants during the school day, at any school activity or at any function resulting in a citation or arrest, will, at the point of citation or arrest, incur the following:

1. immediate suspension from school and all school related activities
2. parents/guardian are notified
3. probation contract
4. an alcohol/drug evaluation

The evaluation must be completed at a mutually agreed upon treatment center for chemical dependency. The family will be responsible for the cost of the evaluation, and the student must follow the recommendation.

If the administration has reason to believe that a student is involved in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol, the administration will follow the above policy.

If a student involved in activities or athletics is cited or arrested or tests positive on a breathalyzer test for the illegal use of alcohol or drugs, that student will be suspended from all extra-curricular competitions or non-athletic performances

- 1st offense - 2 week suspension
- 2nd offense - 9 week suspension
- 3rd offense - 18 week suspension

COACHES AND ADVISORS MAY DETERMINE ADDITIONAL CONSEQUENCES.

Students must comply with this policy to remain at Gross Catholic High School and re-admittance to school is not automatic and is determined only after a parent conference with the student and administrator.

Any students involved in the distribution or sale of drugs, inhalants, or alcohol during the school day, at any school activity or non-school activity will be immediately dismissed from school with no possibility of re-admission.

If there is reason to suspect that a student is in possession of or is observed selling or transferring suspected illegal drugs on school property, an administrator will notify the parents and the proper authorities.

Any item recovered which is suspected to be an illicit drug will be turned over to authorities for analysis. The above applies to all placebos or "look alike drugs," as well as drug paraphernalia. Students hosting parties where drugs and alcohol are used by minors are subject to expulsion.

When school authorities have reasonable cause to believe or suspect a student is under the influence of alcohol at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity or event based on the student's observed conduct, demeanor, appearance or speech, the student will be required to submit a breathalyzer test. School authorities will also randomly submit breathalyzer tests to students at school functions. This also includes students who are not Gross Catholic students. If the test discloses the student to be under the influence of alcohol to any degree or extent, school will notify parents and the proper authorities. The student will remain with the school authority until the parents arrive. If the parents are unavailable, another adult member of the student's family may represent the parents. Once the student tests positive for alcohol, school officials will follow the alcohol policy as written in the student handbook.

It is appropriate that school officials, law enforcement, and families work together to help students avoid drugs and alcohol. The Gross Catholic administration will enforce our policies according to the information provided by law enforcement, parents and others.

FIGHTING

Students involved in violence will be expelled and the parents may request a meeting with the appropriate administrator to determine the possibility of re-admittance.

HARASSMENT

Harassment is behavior or words that:

- Are uninvited, unwanted, and unwelcome
- Cause a person to feel uncomfortable or offended
- Create an environment that makes learning difficult

Any student being harassed is strongly encouraged to report the harassment to a counselor or administrator. Any student found to be harassing another will be subject to disciplinary measures, including suspension and/or expulsion.

STEALING

Any stealing, possession, acceptance, or buying or selling of stolen goods at school will not be tolerated. A student who fails in this regard is subject to suspension and/or expulsion from school.

WEAPONS

A student bringing a weapon to school will be expelled and turned over to the proper authorities. Threats to use a weapon will be investigated and may be treated the same as possession of a weapon.

OFF CAMPUS SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

The same norms and guidelines that apply at school, apply to off-campus school functions.

VANDALISM

Vandalism to school furnishings, building, property, and property of others is an act which may subject a student to immediate dismissal from school.

TOBACCO USE

Tobacco use, in the building, on the premises, or at any school-sponsored activity on or off school property carries with it the following penalties:

- 1st offense \$35.00 fine and 3 hours detention time
- 2nd offense \$70.00 fine and suspension results until a parent conference is held.

Fines must be paid within one week or suspension may result.

Students are not to be in possession of tobacco, lighters, vape, cigarette packages, e-cigarettes, or chewing tins. Confiscation will result and this will be considered a violation subject to the above penalties.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF AFFECTION

Public expression of affection during the school day is inappropriate.

VULGARITIES

Use of vulgar or obscene language or gestures is inappropriate at Gross Catholic High School.

CLASS DISMISSAL DUE TO DISCIPLINARY REASONS

Any student dismissed from class for disciplinary reasons must immediately report to the office and remain there until seen by an administrator. Parents will be notified by the faculty member. A faculty member will fill out an "Administrative Referral Form". These forms will be held in the students file and an accumulation of discipline referrals may result in suspension or expulsion.

PLAGIARISM

Students are expected to do their own work. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Each teacher may establish their own classroom guidelines in this regard.

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL

A student may be suspended for a period of time or, if the situation warrants, expelled from the school community. Offenses which warrant suspension from school are handled by an administrator and re-admission requires a conference with the student, at least one parent, and the administrator. Students suspended from school are re-admitted on probationary status.

In a case of expulsion, the student and parent(s) may appeal the expulsion to the president. The president's decision is final.

As a general rule, when a student is suspended, teachers will keep a copy of any worksheets or handouts for the student. These will be given to the student upon his/her return to school. In the case of suspension, the school does not gather work from teachers. The suspended student may be assisted by fellow classmates if such arrangements are made by the students. A student who is suspended from school is not allowed to participate in any school activities or be on school property during the suspension.

The following are grounds for suspension or expulsion from Gross Catholic High School:

1. Evidence of possession of drugs or alcohol with a reasonable suspicion of intent to sell or distribute.
2. Identification by law enforcement as being an active participant in a gang involved in illegal activities.
3. Willful destruction to property, malicious vandalism and/or arson.
4. Willful destruction of computer-created projects or the downloading/distribution of dangerous, harmful or inappropriate content.
5. Consistent and recurring violation of school policy, regulations and truancy.
6. Serious misconduct which interferes with the legal and personal rights of others, particularly a right to an education, and which presents a danger to the health, safety, welfare and esteem of any person in the school or at school activities.
7. The commission of any crime on school property or during a school sponsored event including, but not inclusive, theft, assault, possession of controlled substances, et. al. Such crimes will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
8. Consistent and recurring insubordination.
9. Any other good and sufficient grounds rendering the attendance of the student offensive to the educational, spiritual and social program of the school which results or may result in a disruptive influence on the educational, spiritual or social program, the student or school personnel.

Any crime committed on school property or at a school sponsored function will be reported to the appropriate authorities. A student who has been expelled from Gross Catholic for any reason other than academics will not be re-admitted.

CLOSED CAMPUS

To maintain a safe secure learning environment, Gross Catholic maintains a closed campus policy. Students who have a study period during the day must remain in the building and report to the designated supervisor for attendance. Senior students can leave school after 6th period if they have study periods 7th and 8th. Junior students can leave school after 7th period if they have a study period 8th. If a student leaves the building they must leave the school property and not return until after the school day. Freshman and sophomore students are required to stay in school until 3:00 pm dismissal.

PARKING /PARKING LOT

Any car brought to school, even if occasionally, must be registered with the business office and parking permits will be issued at that time. Cars without permits or outside the designated parking lines will incur a \$25.00 fine.

Throughout the year, any additions or changes concerning cars brought to school will be handled by the business office. Students and parents should note that the entrances into the parking lots from Margo Street are one way.

Reckless driving on school property will result in loss of driving privileges.

Students should not loiter in the parking lot or on school property after they have been dismissed from school and leave the school building.

SMART PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are responsible for any disruptions caused by cell phones, music players, and other electronic devices during the school day. During class time these devices are to be used for educational purposes at the direction of each individual teacher. Each individual teacher will have a policy stated on the course outline for the use of these items in the classroom. The misuse of these devices during class is prohibited. If used inappropriately these items may be confiscated, detention may be issued or suspension may result.

COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY USE

1. The school's code of conduct extends to the electronic world.
 - Technology is not to be used to harass or bully others.
 - Technology is not to be used to steal or borrow intellectual work.
 - Technology is not to be used to access or store inappropriate materials.
 - Technology is not to be used to send out "chain" email, mass email (3 or more recipients) and/or surveys that have not been approved by faculty or staff.
 - Technology is not to be used in a disrespectful way towards teachers by "multitasking" during class (emailing, chatting, doing homework, etc.).
 - Technology is not to be used to take a photo, record through video or audio any student or faculty without their knowledge and consent.
 - Technology is not to be used to express profanity and vulgarities in any online source, including Gross Catholic's website, email program, or other internet sites.
 - Technology is not to be used to share any personal information about you or any student or school personnel to anyone via the Internet.
 - Technology is not to be used in a way that endangers your safety or the safety of students or staff members.
 - Technology is not to be used in a way that would disrupt the use of the network by others.

2. The network will be used for educational purposes first and foremost and should be handled with care and consideration.
3. Users may be assigned unique email and login usernames and passwords to protect the information on the network. **All users are to respect the need for this security and confidentiality.** Do not access or use other people's accounts, computers or folders, nor borrow computers or computer accessories without express permission from the owner.
 - Passwords must not be shared with any other person. Tech Help at Gross Catholic, staff, and parents are the only exceptions.
 - If a student suspects that his/her password has been discovered, that student must immediately report this concern to a faculty member.
 - Students are responsible for all actions taken under a student's username and password.
 - Students should always use their gcgmail email address or username when utilizing online resources for digital storage or collaboration.
 - Electronic communication between faculty, staff and students through email **must** utilize Gross Catholic's email system.
4. Students should not attempt to bypass the technological blocks that have been placed on computers to filter content that the school has classified as objectionable. Teachers may request to unblock a website if the website is appropriate and relevant to school activities.
5. Never provide personal information online.
6. The Gross Catholic community should only use printers for school related materials and not in excess.
7. Students should back up their work often. Do not use technology as an excuse. If your computer fails at home, do your work on paper or in some other way. The use of a cloud account for back up is recommended.
8. Students should take responsibility for regularly checking their Gross Catholic email account and their teachers' course pages or websites to stay updated on information that has been shared by the school or their teachers.
9. All student files are deleted at the end of each school year. Login and email accounts are deleted for graduated seniors.

SOCIAL NETWORKING AND TEXTING

Although social networking and texting is done at home or off campus, it can have an impact on the school community. While Gross Catholic does not actively pursue or routinely view personal networking sites or student cell phones, when objectionable or disrespectful material is brought to administration's attention, the school reserves the right to address the content and conduct if it creates a hostile or disrespectful environment. In monitoring the use of technology, both on and off campus, some situations may warrant administrative involvement and/or the involvement of law enforcement authorities. The school does encourage parents to routinely view and monitor their child's technology usage to ensure that information and content shared does not place any student at risk.

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF BUILDING

The building and classrooms are for the use of the students and staff. At all times students should use the building and classrooms with the supervision of a staff/faculty member. Gross Catholic is not responsible for any incidents occurring from the unauthorized use of building space.

HEALTH & CONDITIONING CENTER / GYMNASIUMS

The Health & Conditioning Center and the gymnasiums are available to all Gross Catholic students. No student may use the Health & Conditioning Center and the Gymnasiums without the supervision of a representative of the Gross Catholic High School coaching/training staff. Gross Catholic is not responsible for lifting accidents due to improper training or technique or the unsupervised use of the equipment.

LOCKERS

Academic and gym lockers are provided for students' personal use. These lockers are considered the property of Gross Catholic and may be searched at any time.

Each student is assigned a locker and is responsible for its upkeep. Students should not switch lockers with another student. Any necessary repairs should be reported to the office immediately. Repair costs due to abuse will be assessed to the individual student. Gym lockers require students to purchase a combination lock from our school Spirit Store. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure no one else knows their locker combination. Students should not reveal combinations to others, should keep lockers locked, and valuable items should be left at home. A locker cleanout time will be arranged so that lockers can be emptied and cleaned before final exams.

VALUABLES

It is highly recommended that valuable items and large sums of money not be brought to school. Lockers should be locked at all times to secure personal items. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

Physical restraint and seclusion of students for behavior management shall be used in circumstances and under conditions that are in the best interests of students.

Physical restraint is appropriate when a student is displaying physical behavior which presents substantial imminent risk of injury to the student or others, and the student is demonstrating the intent and the ability to cause injury within a matter of seconds or minutes. The degree of physical restriction employed should be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident, the size and condition of the student, and the potential risks for injury to the student or others. Physical restraint does not include: (a) taking away a weapon; or (b) breaking up a fight.

Seclusion is appropriate when a student is displaying physical behavior that presents substantial imminent risk of injury to the student or others, and the threat could be diminished if the student were placed in a safe environment away from other students and staff. Seclusion should only be used as long as necessary and should be discontinued when the student is no longer a threat to himself/herself or others. Time out procedures which do not constitute seclusion are permitted in school.

Immediately after the student has restored emotional and behavioral control following the use of physical restraint and/or seclusion, a staff member not involved with the incident shall examine the student to ascertain if the student has sustained any injury. The Principal will verbally notify the parent/guardian as soon as possible (no later than the end of the school day in which the physical restraint or seclusion occurs).

All use of physical restraint or seclusion must be documented in a memorandum within one school day of the incident. The Principal will send a copy of the memorandum to the parent or guardian within two school days following the use of the restraint or seclusion.

DRESS CODE

BOOK BAGS

Book bags and backpacks must be stored in lockers during the school day. Only laptop cases may be carried by students. A two-shoulder backpack cannot be used as a laptop bag.

DRESS CODE

Gross Catholic High School recognizes the importance of establishing a dress code for its students. The dress code is intended to create a standard of dress that is neat, economical, modest and attractive. This uniform appearance promotes a visible sense of school unity and identity. A secondary goal of the dress code is to teach young people that in the larger arena of life, different types of dress are appropriate for different settings. Finally, a professional and clean standard of dress emphasizes the neatness and care appropriate to pursuits such as learning. We anticipate the cooperation of parents in ensuring their students' adherence to the dress code.

In all cases, the administration reserves the right to determine what constitutes proper dress code in accordance with good taste and modest contemporary standards for a Catholic high school.

Gross Catholic High School Dress Code is as follows:

Uniform Pants – Only tan or khaki uniform dress pants are permissible. The uniform pants may be viewed on the Dennis Uniform Company or Education Outfitters website. This does not include any type of cargo, capri, corduroy, denim, painter, athletic, wind, hip huggers, baggy, bell bottoms, or olive green pants. Uniform pants may be purchased at any uniform store. Examples of uniform stores include Lands' End Uniform, Old Navy Uniform, JC Penney Uniform, etc....

Uniform Skorts – Young women may choose to wear a khaki skort purchased only from Dennis Uniform Company or Education Outfitters. Skorts must be of modest length, measured by the bottom of the skort touching the end of the fingertips, and worn as the manufacturer intended, for example, not rolled or hemmed. Young women may choose to wear tights. Tights must be a solid color with no pattern in the material. Fishnet materials are not dress code.

Uniform Shorts – Young men may choose to wear khaki uniform shorts only purchased from Dennis Uniform Company or Education Outfitters. Uniform shorts may be worn only before November 1st and after April 1st.

Uniform Shirts – Only solid orange, blue, or white long or short-sleeved uniform polo shirts are to be worn at Gross Catholic. Orange and blue uniform polo shirts must be purchased from Dennis Uniform Company or Education Outfitters. White uniform polo shirts may be purchased at any store as long as they are similar in design and fit to a uniform polo shirt. No colored or printed t-shirt may be visible under the uniform polo shirt. NO OTHER shirts are to be worn as part of the uniform at Gross Catholic High School.

Uniform Sweaters, Sweatshirts, or Pullovers – Students may wear a solid-colored, navy blue or gray V-neck or crew neck pullover or cardigan uniform sweater over their uniform shirt. The uniform sweater may be viewed on the Dennis Uniform Company or Education Outfitters website. Uniform sweaters may be purchased at any uniform store. Examples of uniform stores include Lands End Uniform, Old Navy Uniform, JC Penney Uniform, etc.... If a student chooses not to wear a uniform sweater, he/she may purchase a specific sweatshirt or pullover from the spirit store. The sweatshirt or pullover will be clearly marked as approved to be worn during the school day on Monday – Friday.

Shoes – Only shoes with a covered toe and heel may be worn at Gross Catholic High School. The following footwear is not acceptable at Gross Catholic:

1. Athletic or shower-type slip-ons/“sliders”
2. Flip-Flops
3. Slippers of any kind, even those with a hard bottom
4. Shoes with retractable wheels
5. Sandals with open toe or open heel

Accessories and Jewelry – Any accessories must be modest and appropriate for the outfit. These items should not draw attention to the individual. Hats, scarves, and facial jewelry are NOT acceptable dress code items.

Hair – Hair styles and color must be commensurate with modest contemporary standards. Hair styles should not draw attention to the individual. Hair must be out of the eyes and neatly combed. Young men must have their hair trimmed above their collar and may not wear any hair accessories.

Facial Hair – Young men must have NO facial hair. Sideburns above the earlobe are permitted.

Special Dress Tuesdays – Marianist or house shirts may be worn on Tuesdays. All other uniform guidelines should be followed. This is a show of support for our Marianist heritage or the student’s house.

Special Dress Fridays – On Friday students may wear spirit gear over their uniform shirts with all other uniform guidelines in place. Spirit gear consists of pullovers, sweatshirts, jackets, and hoodies that celebrate pride in a student’s activities and sports. These items may be purchased only from the spirit store.

Special Dress Day – Other days may be designated for special attire. These days will be announced with the dress expectation. Students should always wear clothing that is appropriate for the school setting and that does not draw undue attention to the individual student.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Daily attendance is an integral part of the learning experience and is required of all students to receive the maximum benefit of the educational program.

Students shall not be absent more than **eight days** in any semester.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to see that the child attends school and to inform the school of each and every absence. It is the responsibility of the school to notify the parent/guardian on each occurrence of an unverified absence.

Students must be at school for a minimum of six periods on the day of a practice, activity, athletic performance, or competition in order to participate. Exceptions may be granted by the administration.

Attendance Procedures

1. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are expected to notify the school regarding a student's absence on the day of the absence. An absence must be reported by phone call between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
 - a. Students who were absent from school for any reason shall submit **IN WRITING** (phone calls will not be acceptable) the specific reasons for their absence, the specific days or times they were absent, verification by the doctor or dentist (where appropriate), and a signature of the parent/guardian. In order to return to school following an absence the written verification must be presented upon re-admission. Once the student has turned in the note/s at the main office they will be given a re-admittance slip. No student will be admitted to their first period class without a re-admittance slip.
2. Absences for the following reasons may be waived:
 - a. extended illness or hospitalization;
 - b. death in the family or family emergency; and
 - c. court appearance or other legal situation beyond the control of the family.
3. Classes missed because of attendance at a school sponsored trip or activity will not be recorded as a school activity and not count toward the eight absences. However, the student will be required to make up work missed.

First Period Tardies

A student who is late for first period any morning must first report to the office for a tardy slip. If a student is tardy to first period a fifth time in a semester, regardless of whether the tardiness is excused or not, that student will be required to report to the detention room at the beginning of their lunch period. After the 10th tardy, students will be issued after-school detentions for each additional tardy. If tardiness to first period becomes chronic the student may be suspended from school.

Tardiness beyond 8:00 a.m. in the morning will constitute an unexcused absence for the first class period.

All Other Tardiness

1. Tardiness is defined as a student's initial appearance in a class at any time after the designated starting time. Tardiness of more than ten minutes to a class will be considered an absence.
2. All incidences of class tardiness after 1st period will be the responsibility of the teacher. Teachers will emphasize the importance of being on time and explain the classroom rules and procedures for tardiness. The tardy sanctions should be consistently applied and should be sequential. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to: warning, teacher-monitored detention, parent contact and administrative referral.
3. If, for some reason, a teacher is not in class when the class is to begin, one of the students is to report to the office and verify if the class will meet. All other students are to remain in the classroom until instructed otherwise.

Truancy

1. Truancy is defined as any absence from school or an assigned class or classes without parent/guardian and school permission.
2. Class work missed because of truancy can be made up and treated the same as make-up work for all other absences.
3. Incidents of truancy will be recorded as part of a student's attendance record and will count toward the limit of eight allowable absences per semester.
4. Any student truant from any one class will serve three detentions and parents will be notified. If truancy becomes chronic the student may be suspended from school.
5. Students truant for an entire day may be suspended and may be issued six after-school detentions.

Excessive Absence

1. Excessive absence is any absence beyond eight days per semester.
2. When a student has been absent from school/class five times (days/class periods) during a given semester, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified via mail or phone regarding the student's absence record.
3. The student will be dropped from any class upon the ninth (9th) absence and a grade of "F" will be issued.
4. The student will be dropped from the regular school day when the ninth (9th) absence causes them to become a part-time student.

Re-admittance Process

1. When notified that the student has been dropped from a class or school, the student and parent/guardian may request, within two school days, a meeting with school personnel to determine re-admittance. Should the request not be made within two school days, the student will be permanently dropped from class/school.
2. Following removal from class/school the student will remain in class/school pending completion of the re-admittance process.
3. The conference for re-admittance must be attended by the student, parent/guardian, an administrator, and may also include attendance personnel and a counselor.
4. The following will be considered in making a re-admittance decision:
 - absences caused by documented chronic or extended illness, hospitalization, family death or emergency, emergency medical or dental care, court appearances or other legal situations beyond the control of the family

- attendance history of the student
- extenuating circumstances
- educational alternatives to removal from class or school
- the total educational program for each individual student

LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE DAY

When it is necessary for students to leave school during the day, they should report to the office before first hour to make arrangements. Students should have a note from a parent specifying the reason for leaving and the time the student is to be dismissed from school. Students with permission to leave must check out in the office before leaving, and must check back in when returning.

Any student leaving the school building without permission at any time during the school day prior to official dismissal will be subject to disciplinary action.

FUNERAL POLICY

If a student wishes to attend a funeral during the school day, a note from a parent must be submitted to the main office before school begins the day of the funeral. Phone calls from parents will not be accepted. Students are to return to school after the funeral. It is not appropriate for students to stay for a luncheon unless they are personally invited. In order to stay for a luncheon, students must have prior written approval or communication to the school office from their parents.

LITURGIES

The celebration of sacraments, liturgies, and prayer experiences are central to our mission at Gross Catholic. Appropriate conduct and active participation is expected. If a student is asked to leave a liturgical celebration parents will be notified and the student will be subject to disciplinary action. Attendance at all sacraments, liturgies, and prayer experiences is required.

ASSEMBLIES

Since school assemblies are looked upon as celebrations of who we are as a Christian community, all students are expected to attend. Appropriate behavior for the assembly is expected. Skipping an assembly will be considered the same as skipping a class. Juniors and seniors are not required to attend pep rallies scheduled at the end of the day.

HEALTH POLICY

If a student becomes ill during the school day, a parent will be notified and the student will be sent home. Special consideration may be given to a student with a diagnosed health problem, verified by a physician's note. In the interest of the health of others, students are asked to remain at home when they have a contagious illness.

The school takes no responsibility for medications self-administered by a student. If a student must take a medication during the school day, the school nurse should be informed and the medication should be brought to school in the original container labeled by the pharmacy, and the proper medication form must be completed. Over the counter medications, such as aspirin or Tylenol, must be in the original container labeled with the student's name and manufacturer's directions legible. In other special situations, the guidelines established by the Nebraska Department of Health will be followed.

If a student becomes ill and therefore must miss a class, that student must report to the office or the absence from class will be considered a skipped class. In such cases, parents will be called and the student will be sent home.

In compliance with Rule 59, Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School has adopted an "Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions Protocol" and is equipped to implement the protocol while school is in session in the case of any student and/or school staff member.

Protocol:

- 911 is called first
- EP/Pen injection is given
- Albuterol is provided through a nebulizer

Parents must provide to the school staff for students having a known allergic condition or asthma:

- Written medical documentation
- Instructions
- Medications as directed by a physician

School health screening is not diagnostic nor is it intended to replace regular preventive health care. The goal is to assist parents in the identification of potential health problems so they may seek appropriate medical evaluation. Tenth grade health screening includes: height/weight, vision, hearing, and blood pressure. Students may be screened upon the request of a parent or teacher at any time. A copy of the student's birth certificate is required during registration.

APOSTOLIC OUTREACH/DUX ESTO PROGRAM

Apostolic Outreach is a program committed to developing leaders in the Marianist tradition. Gross Catholic provides a program of apostolic outreach that seeks to educate students for service, justice and peace through the offering of their time, talent and treasure in service of God and their neighbor. Each Gross Catholic student will offer service to their parish, the wider church, the Gross Catholic community, and the local community.

This program will expect each individual to offer a total of:

- 20 hours of charitable service during their freshman year
- 25 hours of charitable service during their sophomore year
- 30 hours of charitable service during their junior year
(The junior service retreat will count for 5 hrs.)
- 35 hours of charitable service hours during their senior year
(The senior Social Justice project will count for 10 hours)

A percentage of these hours will be offered every year in service of:

- Home parish – 4 hrs. minimum (work at parish festival/Bazaar; serve as a liturgical minister, Church cleaning)
- Wider church – 4 hrs. minimum (another parish , any archdiocesan entity, any parochial school , K of C's)
- Gross Catholic – 4 hrs. minimum (work study hours/service for extra-curricular organizations are NOT applicable)
- Local community – 4 hrs. minimum (this work is restricted to a non-profit charitable organization or cause)

Remaining hours may be completed in any of the above - mentioned categories. All apostolic activity is to be offered in service of a non-profit organization/institution.

To promote the ideal that apostolic outreach is a constant pursuit and not a seasonal obligation in the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ. Students are expected to offer their service throughout the course of the year. In light of this goal, and in an attempt to encourage the virtues of prudence and temperance in the lives of our students, the following parameters are offered.

- Charitable service hours for the current year may begin any time after the last day of the previous academic year with a maximum of 10 hours being offered during summer.
- A maximum of 3 hours per event will be allowed without the prior approval of the appropriate theology teacher. Expected participation in junior service retreats (5 hours) and senior social justice practicum (10 hours) are exempt from this situation.
- **With the exception of charitable service performed during the summer, all verification sheets are to be submitted within 2 weeks of completion of the service.**
- All charitable service and verification sheets for the current academic year will be completed on or before the first Monday of May of the current year.
- **Someone other than the parent of the student is to act as the adult supervisor for charitable service. Neither parent can sign the verification sheet as "Adult Supervisor" for the charitable activity.**
- **If any underclassman fails to meet the expectations of this program, they will receive a "Fail" for their current Service Hours class.**
- **If any student fails to earn the required one credit in Service Hours, they will not receive their diploma/transcripts.**

- Students who enroll during the academic year will have their expected hours of participation pro-rated.
- Foreign-exchange students who attend Gross Catholic High School will be encouraged to participate in the Dux Esto Program but will not be penalized should they fail to successfully complete the expectations of the program.

The process

- To receive credit for participation in an approved apostolic activity a student is to complete a Dux Esto activity report sheet. Dux Esto Activity report sheets may be obtained from the school's main office. Dux Esto activity report sheets may also be obtained from the web site.
- Having completed an apostolic activity and the Dux Esto activity report sheet, the student is to submit the completed form to the appropriate theology teacher.
- Should a student or parent have any questions regarding the process they should contact the Principal.

The Gross Catholic High School Administration, reserves the right to determine appropriate implementation of Apostolic Outreach Program.

ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS

At Gross Catholic High School, every student has the opportunity and is encouraged to have a balanced school program. All Freshmen are required to participate in a fall sport or activity.

Numerous activities are available including clubs, service organizations, sports, spirit activities and fine arts productions. Students must be at school for a minimum of six periods on the day of a practice, activity, performance, or competition in order to participate.

ACTIVITIES

Academic Decathlon

Art Club

Bowling

Cheerleading

Chess Team

Chorus/Liturgical Singers

Concert Band

Culinary Team

Dance Team

Drama

Engineering Team

Jazz Band

Innovation Team

L.I.F.E. Team

Musical

Pastoral Council

Robotics Team

S.A.L.T.

Speech Team

Student Council

Swing Choir

Book Club

Trap Shooting

ATHLETICS

Boys Competition

Cross Country

Football

Tennis

Basketball

Swimming

Wrestling

Baseball

Golf

Soccer

Track

Girls Competition

Cross Country

Golf

Softball

Volleyball

Swimming

Basketball

Tennis

Soccer

Track

Each year the River Cities Conference presents an Academic All-Conference Award to sophomores, juniors, and seniors in athletics and activities who lettered in their sport/activity and had a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher the previous semester.

ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY

A student's eligibility for extracurricular activities will be determined by using the mid-quarter, quarter, and semester reports.

****Students will be affected only during their sports/activity season.****

Ineligibility Process:

Students with an F or more than one D, will be required to do the following to stay eligible:

1. Attend a mandatory study hall to be scheduled during the day. A student will remain in the study hall until the next grade report is released.
2. Weekly progress reports will be completed on Thursday of each week and signed by parent(s). If the student does not receive a progress report from their first period teacher, it is the student's responsibility to pick up a progress report from their first period teacher.
3. The reports will be submitted to the Activities Director on Friday of that same week for evaluation of the student's eligibility. All reports must be signed by ALL parties and turned in no later than 7:40 a.m. Friday.
4. If, and only if, a teacher is absent on the day the progress reports are being signed by teachers, then a student must get the substitute teacher's signature.

The following constitutes a poor weekly progress report:

- A combination of any 3 NO's in either Homework, Behavior or Grade Improvement column
- A report not signed by an instructor or parent when turned in on time
- A report not turned in on time or not turned in at all

One poor weekly progress report: The student has until the end of the following week to show improvement in the categories on a weekly progress report. These include estimated grade for the week, completed work and class behavior.

Two consecutive poor weekly progress reports: The student is declared ineligible for game participation the entire 3rd week or until the student has earned a good progress report.

- If a student follows the first poor weekly progress report with a good weekly progress report the second week the student remains eligible.
- If the student follows the first poor weekly progress report with a second poor weekly progress report, the student will be declared by the Activities Director, ineligible for all game participation when the student submits his or her progress report. The student will remain ineligible until he or she submits a good progress report.
- A week consists of Sunday to Saturday.
- Whatever the student's eligibility status, the student is still able to practice with the team or activity. However, if a student is ineligible for that week and the team is dismissed from school, he or she will not be allowed to leave early with the team.
- If the student does not make up missed time by Friday the student will receive a poor weekly progress report for that week.

ALL RESULTS FROM THE PREVIOUS SEMESTER WILL CARRY OVER TO THE FOLLOWING SEMESTER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

In all cases the Gross Catholic High School Administration reserves the right to determine what constitutes eligibility.

SPORTSMANSHIP

As a member school of the Nebraska School Activities Association, we endorse the following NSAA sportsmanship code.

All participants and fans should:

- Remember high school sports are a part of the educational process
- Maintain self-control at all times
- Show support and enthusiasm by cheering your team - not degrading the opponent
- Applaud the outstanding performances of all athletes
- Know, understand and appreciate the rules of the contest
- Respect the effort and decisions of contest officials
- Shirts must be worn at all indoor activities
- Artificial noisemakers may not be used at any activity.
- Newspapers and other reading material may not be displayed during player introductions
- Students who exhibit poor sportsmanship by way of inappropriate chants, cheers, and/or actions may be asked to leave the game

At no time are cheers, posters or spontaneous reactions to contain profanity, profane innuendo, sexual connotations or a denigration of our opponent.

When in attendance at athletic events that is held outside of Gross Catholic High School, students must still follow all rules, procedures and regulations set by the school.

Students not following these rules may be asked to leave by Gross Catholic High School personnel.

In all cases, the Gross Catholic High School administration reserves the right to determine what constitutes good sportsmanship.

STATE COMPETITION POLICY

- School will not be automatically dismissed for state competitions
- Students will be released and excused from school based on the purchase of a ticket to attend the event and parent permission
- Once arriving at the event it is the responsibility of the student to check in with a designated administrator. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence and will be dealt with as such.
- Following parent notification, students skipping school receive 6 detentions after school.
- Transportation to and from state competition will be provided based on student interest and will be provided at student expense.
- If it is determined that school will be dismissed early for a state competition;
 - Parents will be notified through the email system and a PowerSchool announcement will be made
 - Students will be allowed to leave school at the designated dismissal time.
 - Parents should not call the office to allow a student to be dismissed early for the state competition.

HOUSE SYSTEM

Every House a Home . . . In every Home, a Leader.

In an effort to build tradition and a healthy pride in our school, we have developed a House system based on the traditional English model and in line with the system used in other Marianist schools.

The primary objective of the House system is to enable all students, not just those who hold a specific title, to embrace their potential for leadership and to become part of a multi-grade community which is responsible for the academic, social, and spiritual growth of all its members.

The House system allows students and faculty time to play and pray together, as well as time for positive peer-to-peer growth. As Pope Francis said at World Youth Day, “the Church needs you [teens], your enthusiasm, your creativity, and the joy that is so characteristic of you. . .Do you know what the best tool is for evangelizing the young? Another young person. This is the path to follow!”

HOUSE TERMINOLOGY

House System: There will be four Houses which consist of roughly 100 students each. Each House will be named after a former Marianist Brother/priest who served at Gross Catholic. The purpose of naming Houses after these men is to honor those who significantly shaped our school community.

House: There are four Houses and each House consists of students in grades 9 through 12 and members of the faculty. There are approximately 100 students per House. Each House has one Dean and two senior Co-Captains.

Homeroom Group: A group of students from one division. There are four Homeroom Groups per House.

Dean: A Dean is a faculty member chosen to oversee the effective development of the House and the students within the House. Deans are not assigned Homeroom Groups.

Mentor: A Mentor is a faculty member chosen to oversee the effective development of the Homeroom Group and the students within the Homeroom Group. He/she has approximately 20 student in his/her Homeroom Group.

House Co-Captain: Junior or Senior students selected to lead all students within a House and to represent their House and the student body in school events. Co-Captains work with Deans to plan and implement all House functions.

House Leaders: Junior or Senior students selected to facilitate House activities and assist Captains and Deans.

HOUSE CHART

Each House will be represented by a crest designed by the inaugural House Captains and Dean and will contain the House's primary color (crimson, grey, navy, hunter green). A faculty Dean, faculty Mentors, senior Co-Captains, senior Leaders, and students from various grades make up each house. Students remain in the same House and the same Homeroom Group for all four years. Every effort will be made to keep mentors and deans with the same House in order to build collaborative relationships. The "House" table gives specific information on each House.

House Director:	Michele Sweetmon			
House:	Barrett	Willett	Middleton	McMenamy
Dean:	Mrs. Schow	Mrs. McNamara	Mr. Sweetmon	Mr. Homan
Colors:	Gray/Purple	Navy/Gold	Crimson/Gray (silver)	Green
Moto:	NON DUCOR DUCO	DEUS VULT	AUT VIAM INVENIAM AUT FACIAM	FAMILIA SUPRA OMNI
Mentors				
Senior Mentor(s)	Mrs. Dorwart	Mrs. Dworak	Mr. Sloup	Mrs. Hughes
Homeroom	206	202	207	203
Junior Mentor(s)	Mr. Powers	Mrs. JohaneK-Boro	Mrs. Novotny	Mrs. Maxwell
	Mr. Harland	Ms. Nelson		Mr. Schwalm
Homeroom	103	101	111	107
Sophomore Mentor(s)	Mr. Van Haute	Mr. Moore	Mr. Connelly	Mrs. Matzen
	Mr. Linneman	Mrs. Johnson	Mrs. Brousek	Mr. Hamersky
Homeroom	225	229	223	221
Freshman Mentor(s)	Mr. Fuchser	Mrs. Carson	Mrs. Nano	Mrs. Jackson
	Mrs. Andersen-Rogers	Mr. Johnk	Mrs. Harris	Mr. Schmitz
Homeroom	133	123	127	126

HOUSE POINT SYSTEM

All four Houses will compete to win the Cougar Cup which is awarded annually. This award is given to the House that accumulates the most points in various events and competitions that are academic, athletic, service, leadership, and school spirit oriented.

House points are awarded for positive behaviors and actions in areas such as:

- Spirituality
- Service to Others
- Academics
- School Spirit
- Displaying a Responsible and Respectful Character
- Activities and Athletics

HOUSE SYSTEM SCHEDULE

Houses will meet for 31 minutes every other Tuesday of the month. This time is first and foremost for building camaraderie across divisions and should not be a time to pull students out of their House time. House Deans will assist Mentors in their support of students, and they will oversee the effective running of the House to include development of House programs and management of House points. House activities will be based on the Pillars of Character (responsibility, trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness, respect, honor, family spirit).

Homeroom Groups will meet for 31 minutes on non-house Tuesdays of the month. This will be time designated for school announcements, tutoring, team/activity meetings, study time, or grade specific activities. While this time will not necessarily be structured, students should not be roaming the hallways, nor should they be disruptive. It is hoped that most students will use this time for meetings or academic help. Mentors should treat students who are not at meetings or receiving help as they would treat students in a study hall situation. Mentors will monitor and support the academic, social, spiritual, and behavioral growth of the students in the Homeroom Group.

Tuesday (House/Homeroom) schedule:

7:40 – 8:24	Period 1
8:28 – 9:12	Period 2
9:16 – 9:47	Homeroom/House
9:51 – 10:35	Period 3
10:39 – 11:23	Period 4
11:27 – 12:11	Lunch A
12:11 – 12:36	Period 5A
11:27 – 12:11	Period 5B
12:11 – 12:36	Lunch B
12:40 – 1:24	Period 6
1:28 – 2:12	Period 7
2:16 – 3:00	Period 8

TRANSITION/RECRUITMENT

COUGAR TRANSITION PROGRAM

The transition from middle school to high school represents a significant event in the lives of adolescents, one that necessitates support and collaboration among teachers, parents, counselors and administrators. Successful transitions place particular emphasis on freshman initiatives and can create one of strongest bridges from middle to high school and beyond!

Although moving from middle school to high school can be a very exciting time for students, the transition is filled with great anxiety and stress for many adolescents. Research is clear that the first year of high school is pivotal, but the transition into high school is often characterized as a time when students experience a decline in grades and attendance (Barone, Aguirre-Deandreis, & Trickett, 1991), school systems must support first year high school students to improve their chances of success.

We at Gross Catholic take a vested interest in every student, making them feel welcomed, loved and valued. We help them understand that they are part of a faith-filled family community. It is important that our freshman become involved in the school community right from the start!

In our “Cougar Transition Program” freshman will:

- be matched up with a “Big Cougar” buddy
- take part in class team building activities during homeroom time
- learn valuable lessons in time management, organizational and test-taking skills
- set goals and begin planning for college
- learn about the history of Gross Catholic High School
- learn the characteristics of a Marianist Education
- have academic progress monitored
- have opportunities to take part in social events outside of school hours
- learn about the academic and extra-curricular activities at Gross Catholic

STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Ambassador: a person who acts as a representative or promoter with a special mission!

A Student Ambassador is a representative of the student body of Gross Catholic High School. They help in the recruitment of future students and represent the high school in various functions such as orientations, school tours, school visits, speaking appointments, community service and other events.

Special Mission Responsibilities will include (but are not limited to):

- Working with other Ambassadors in planning recruitment visits
- Going on elementary school recruitment visits from September – November
- Serving as a member of the Recruitment Team
- Attending Ambassador meetings
- Attending and working Open House in the fall
- Participating in Junior High Recruitment events
- Help to work the Recruitment table at the basketball March Madness event
- Be a tour guide for shadow students
- Public speaking engagements
- Assist with Freshman Cougar Transition Program events

STUDENT SHADOW PROGRAM

One of the best ways to find out if Gross Catholic High School is right for you is to experience the Cougar Family firsthand. Prospective students are encouraged to spend a day with us. With a Cougar Ambassador as your guide, visit classes, meet students and faculty, enjoy lunch in the student commons, and learn about extra-curricular programs. Schedule your visit at least 48 hours in advance so we can plan a great day for you. Parents and prospective students may also schedule a campus tour to learn more about Gross Catholic.

Schedule a Shadow at www.grosscatholic.org or call Michala Jacobson at 402-734-2000.

SPECIAL EVENTS/FUNDRAISING

ANNUAL FUND

You Make Scholarships Happen!

Your generosity makes it possible for more students to benefit from this special, quality education in the Marianist tradition. You keep Gross Catholic strong with your gift.

The Annual Fund supports our Individual Tuition Plan Program by assisting committed families financially. Gifts of the Annual Fund are a primary source of income to keep tuition to a minimum and ensure that Gross Catholic is accessible to a diverse population. We thank you for your gift and hope you will consider a four-year renewable scholarship.

To make a gift contact the Director of Development at 402.734.2000.

Financial Aid Facts

- Only 82% of our operating costs are covered by tuition.
- Gross Catholic families receive \$880,000 in financial aid and scholarships.
- 70% of Gross Catholic students receive some type of tuition assistance or scholarship.
- Students receiving financial aid give back to the school through the work study program.
- Financial need award to a student demonstrating financial need as determined by our established guidelines.
- Academic scholarship to a student achieving among the top scores on our annual Placement and Scholarship Exam for incoming freshmen.

COUGAR GOLF CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

Join us for the Cougar Golf Classic Tournament. Every year the golfers have a great time. There are pin prizes on every hole, an exciting raffle, door prizes, and first & second flight prizes! You have a great chance to win.

Schedule of Events

11:00 am - Registration and Golfer's Lunch

12:00 pm - Shotgun Start

Dinner and Awards Following at Gross Catholic High School

2015 Golf Chairs: The Riha Family - Jim & Dorothy Riha, Scott Riha '91, Tricia Riha Hughes '92 & Tim Riha '96

2015 Event Sponsors: First Investors - Robert Stutzman & Mike Stutzman '05, American National Bank, Five Points Bank

This tournament supports the athletics and activities programs at Gross Catholic!

For more information, contact Dawn Sledge, Special Events Director at 402.734.2000 x 124.

CELEBRATION

CeleBration is our annual dinner/auction fundraiser. The Cougar Family is preparing for CeleBration 32! Chair couples invite you to join us at the Embassy Suites LaVista on Saturday, April 23, 2016. We appreciate the support and leadership you are providing to this special event.

Last year, people enjoyed wireless bidding form AuctionsByCellular (ABC) on smart phones. It is fun and easy to use! No smartphone? No problem! We had ABC professionals assist people with their bidding!

If you can't make it to CeleBration 32, you can join in on the fun! Anyone can simply log onto our website and start bidding on auction items starting around mid April, 2016.

We need your help to make CeleBration 32 a success!

Here's how you can support Gross Catholic:

Attend the Event:

Save the date for Saturday, April 23, 2016 to join parents, alumni, and friends as we raise funds to support the students of Gross Catholic High School at the Embassy Suites LaVista. Watch for your invitation in the mail or buy your tickets online! You can also reserve a room at the Embassy Suites for that evening at a discounted rate.

Volunteer:

We need volunteers to stuff mailings, help decorate, work the cashiering station, solicit and decorate baskets, pick up auction items, and clean up. Contact Special Events Director, Dawn Sledge, if you would like to volunteer or sign up online.

\$10,000 Raffle:

Help support Gross Catholic by buying your CeleBration raffle tickets! This year's raffle winner will walk away with \$10,000 in cash! You need not be present to win. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or \$25 for a book of five. Contact Colleen in the development office to buy your tickets!

Each school family is responsible for selling \$100 worth of CeleBration raffle tickets (20 tickets at \$5). These were distributed to families the first week of February.

Gold Cup:

Buy or sell a \$100 gold cup ticket. We also need volunteers to make phone calls to past buyers asking them to purchase a gold cup ticket again this year.

Corporate Sponsors, Advertising, Tables, Auction Items:

Could you or your business support the students of Gross Catholic this way? Contact Special Events Director, Dawn Sledge, to discuss the options for your support.

Please contact the Advancement Office at 402-734-2000 for more information or to volunteer.

CELEBRATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Members of the Cougar Family are extraordinarily generous with their time, talent, and energy. Gross Catholic is so blessed by the hundreds of hours donated by our parent and alumni volunteers! You are wanted and needed as a Gross Catholic Parent Volunteer!

There are many different opportunities to volunteer at CeleBration, the annual fundraiser for Gross Catholic High School. Some opportunities require a minimal time commitment, while others provide opportunities to do so much more. You choose your level of commitment.

Advertising: Volunteers will assist committee chairs in identifying and soliciting prospects for advertising in program booklet. Will assist with follow up phone calls and emails.

Alumni Committee: Volunteers will assist the committee chairs in identifying & recruiting alumni to help promote CeleBration and increase alumni attendance. Will assist with follow up phone calls and emails.

Auction Set Up: Volunteers will assist committee chair in organizing live & silent auction items on Friday, April 24th at Gross Catholic. Will assist with the display and presentation of live & silent auction items on Saturday, April 25th at Embassy Suites LaVista.

Basket Decorating: Volunteers will assist the committee chair in wrapping & decorate parish baskets in early April. Assist in wrapping and decorating all other baskets one week prior to CeleBration 31.

Cashiering: Volunteers will assist the cashiering chairs with running the silent & super silent auctions, billing, check out procedures, and gift distribution the night of CeleBration, April 25, 2015 at Embassy Suites LaVista.

Clean Up: Volunteers will assist the committee chair in the cleanup of CeleBration 31 at Embassy Suites LaVista on April 25th. Assist in transporting any items back to Gross Catholic (if needed).

Decoration Entryway & Dining Room Tables: Volunteers will assist committee chair in the making of decorations. Assist in transporting decorations on Saturday, April 25 from Gross Catholic to Embassy Suites LaVista. Assist in decorating entryway and dining room tables on Saturday, April 25 at Embassy Suites LaVista.

Event & Table Sponsor & Underwriting: Volunteers will assist the committee chair in identifying and soliciting prospects for event and table sponsors. Will assist with follow up phone calls and emails.

Gold Cup: Volunteers will assist committee chair with gold cup ticket phonathon. Assist selling gold cup tickets the night of CeleBration at Embassy Suites LaVista (optional).

Invitations: Volunteers will assist the committee chair in mid- March with the stuffing, sealing, and placing a stamp on CeleBration 31 invitations.

Live Auction: Volunteers will assist the committee chairs in identifying and soliciting gifts for the live action. Will assist with follow up phone calls and emails. This committee will meet several times.

Parish Baskets: Volunteers will coordinate & organize a parish basket from their parish. Volunteers will collect items for this basket. Volunteers will pick a theme for their parish basket. They will contact other Gross parents from their parish to ask for a donation or item for the parish basket. Will collect all parish basket items and deliver to Gross Catholic.

Set Up & Transportation: Volunteers will assist committee chairs with the transportation of all CeleBration items from Gross to Embassy Suites LaVista on Saturday, April 25th. (Load and Unload items). Will assist with set up at Embassy Suites LaVista on Saturday, April 25th.

Silent & Super Silent Auction: Volunteers will assist the committee chairs on acquiring silent and super silent items. Attend gift solicitation meetings. Will assist with follow up phone calls and emails.

Underwriting: Assist committee chair in identifying and soliciting prospects for underwriting. Will assist with follow up phone calls and emails.

Sell Raffle Tickets: Volunteers sell my raffle tickets at home varsity basketball and March Madness games.

VOLUNTEER BARBEQUE

Thank you very much for volunteering your time this year to take tickets, work the concession stand, stuff envelopes, organize Post-Prom, decorate for CeleBration, haul band equipment, and for all the other volunteer work you contribute to the Cougar Family.

The coaches, moderators & staff at Gross Catholic say thank you every year by inviting you to the Annual Volunteer BBQ at Gross Catholic. We will provide food and refreshments. You won't be asked to do any work, other than show up and enjoy yourself! It does not matter if you volunteered just once, twice, or many times. Please come out and enjoy the evening. There is nothing better than a barbecue with our friends! This will be a social evening for adults only.

OTHER INFORMATION

CHILD CUSTODY

Gross Catholic is utilizing the following procedures concerning child custody. Any questions concerning documents need to be directed to the main office.

In case one parent asks that the child not be allowed to leave the school with the other parent, a custody paper, restraining order, or other legal document should be in the child's folder at school.

Legal opinion states that either parent has equal rights to child unless one of the above legal documents has been issued.

VISITORS

Students who are in the 7th and 8th grade at a feeder grade school and who are considering attending Gross Catholic may accompany a Gross Catholic High student to school.

A Gross Catholic High student may have only one guest at a time. Students wishing to bring a guest must contact the Admissions Director at least one day in advance. As a general rule, no more than 10 guests may be in the school on any given day.

Students presently attending other area high schools who may be interested in attending Gross Catholic should have their parents make an appointment with the Principal and/or the Admissions Director in order to visit the school. All guests must wear appropriate identification.

Students who arrive at Gross Catholic without prior approval will have to return home.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

I.D. cards are issued at the beginning of the school year. I.D.s issued at any other time during the year will cost the student \$10.00. I.D.'s are used for admission to home and away games and dances. I.D.'s must be presented at these events or the full cost of admission must be paid.

DANCES AND SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

School dances other than Homecoming and Prom are for Gross Catholic High students only. Students who bring a guest must follow appropriate procedures. Prom is restricted to juniors and seniors unless invited by an upper classman.

Dances usually begin at 9:00 and end at 11:30. All students are expected to arrive at the dance within one hour of the start time. Once a student leaves a dance they may not return. Appropriate dancing and behavior is expected. Anyone whose conduct is not appropriate may be asked to leave. Students are expected to dress modestly and in good taste.

All students must have a Gross Catholic I.D. in order to enter the dance. The school is not responsible for misplaced or lost personal items.

LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found area is in the main office. If an item is lost, please check with the receptionist. If an item is found, please turn it in at the main desk. Unclaimed items will be given to charity at the end of each semester.

SAFETY DRILLS

Gross Catholic is a safe and secure place to learn. Because safety and security are so important, we periodically hold safety drills. We have been instructed by law enforcement to have four “Standard Response Protocols” and practice them during the year. There are four different responses to emergency situations: **Lock Down** – doors are locked, lights are out, students and staff are out of sight. **Lock Out** – all outside entrances are secured and remain secured until the all clear is given by law enforcement, **Shelter** – tornado or other event causes us to seek shelter inside, and **Evacuate** – fire or other event causes an evacuation of the building. Safety drills are held during the school year and require everyone's cooperation. Students and teachers are required to follow the safety procedures for each situation. If a student should accidentally sound the fire alarm, that person should report it to the office immediately. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from school. Pranks regarding the use of the fire alarms will result in dismissal.

With the ease of communication, it is important that parents remain calm if a student texts or calls with information regarding a drill or actual situation. Parents will be notified when it is safe to contact them through our email system. Please remain calm and allow emergency personnel to complete their job.

RETREATS

Each year, Gross Catholic High School students are required to attend one of the Gross Catholic retreats regardless of their religious belief and experience. Retreats offered at Gross Catholic are rooted in the Catholic Christian faith and seen as a vital part of each student's religious formation. Retreats will provide all with a sense of belonging, as together we celebrate sacraments, create community, pray, worship, listen, share faith, examine, reflect, challenge, and respond to Christ in our lives. It is our hope that all students, Catholic and non-Catholic will use this opportunity to enhance their own spirituality.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council is composed of representatives from the sophomore, junior, and senior classes who are elected in the spring of the previous school year. The student council executive council consists of two representatives from the sophomore, junior, and senior classes. The senior with the highest number of votes is elected president of the student council and serves as the student body president. The student council serves as the coordinating group for service, spirit and social events offered at Gross Catholic.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Empowering people to answer the call to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today, the pastoral ministry at Gross Catholic is the foundation of our school community. Students, faculty, and staff are collectively responsible for the participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community. Open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and rooted in our Marianist tradition, all members of the Gross Catholic community are encouraged to grow in leadership and discipleship offering the Gospel message to others through the witness of faith in action, community and family spirit, and Christian service. Sacramental ministry and spiritual counseling are offered under the guidance of our campus priest/chaplain.

Campus Ministry provides an opportunity for current members of the Cougar family to be actively involved in the pastoral life of our community. Specific activities include: preparation for and celebration of all-school liturgies, prayer services and reconciliation services, morning prayer, the three o'clock prayer, the rosary and stations of the cross, service projects, student socials, and the design and maintenances of the Campus Ministry bulletin board. Juniors and

seniors actively involved in Campus Ministry may also apply to serve the community as Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and retreat leaders.

Marianist Life Team is a small community of disciples committed to Mary's mission of bringing Christ to the world. Rooted in community, sacraments and prayer, we are called to grow in faith and to build and strengthen our Marianist family.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society, founded in 1921, was created to recognize and encourage academic achievement by young people while developing other characteristics necessary to citizens in a democracy. These ideals of scholarship, character, service, and leadership remain as relevant today as they were in 1921. Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School has been a charter member of the National Honor Society since 1971 as the Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan Chapter. Gross Catholic's bylaws are in keeping with the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Membership is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a Faculty Council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony. Induction will take place in February each year. An NHS member who transfers from another school and brings a letter from the principal or chapter advisor to the new school adviser shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

Eligibility for membership includes a class standing of junior or senior; a minimum cumulative GPA requirement of 3.5 or above; membership of Gross Catholic High School for at least one semester; evidence of character, leadership, and service as provided through an official application; and good standing in the Dux Esto program. Eligible students will be presented an application in September. Students who desire membership will be required to complete an application and essay for consideration. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants will be advised that flagrant violations of school rules or civic laws may postpone or prevent membership into National Honor Society. Each student who submits an application will be notified of the decision for induction.

A member of National Honor Society is expected to maintain, at all times, the standards which were deemed necessary for selection. Any member who falls below the set standard for character, service, leadership or scholarship may be dismissed from National Honor Society.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

In the Marianist tradition, Gross Catholic High School will use the resources necessary to better the environment for present and future generations. Whenever possible, we will:

1. Reduce, reuse and recycle material
2. Set objectives for sound energy management
3. Utilize environmentally friendly and sustainable produced products
4. Minimize water use and pollution
5. Promote environmental awareness among staff, parents and students
6. Encourage car sharing among staff, parents and students
7. Educate regarding environmental issues
8. Encourage each other to limit the use of paper.

COUGAR FIGHT SONG

**Here we are!! We're the Gross High Cougars!!
Fighters all and winners too!!
Here we are!! We're the Cagey Cougars!!
Go with the Orange and Blue!!**

**Hear 'em howl,
Hear 'em growl,
Hungry Cougars on the Prowl.**

**Hear 'em shout, Hear 'em say,
We go winners all the way.**

**Rah!! Rah!! Rah! Rah! Rah!....Hey!!
Come on Cougars!! Show 'em how we do it!!**

**Show 'em how the game is won!!
On your mark!! Get Set!! Go to it!!**

GROSS HIGH! GREAT! GREAT!

BEST IN THE HUSKER STATE!

COUGARS ARE NUMBER ONE!! HEY!!