

# GROSS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Student Handbook 2016-2017

**Dr. Dorothy Ostrowski**

President

**John Schultz**

Principal

**Mike Dempsey**

Assistant Principal

7700 South 43rd Street

Bellevue, Nebraska

68147

Telephone: (402) 734-2000

Fax: (402) 734-4270

[www.grosscatholic.org](http://www.grosscatholic.org)

**This agenda belongs to:**

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# **WELCOME TO GROSS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK**

This Student 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. Non-enforcement 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.

## **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.

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

# 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.

## **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.

# 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.

## READMISSION 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 a minimum of seven (7) classes per semester and seven (7) credits per year. All seniors are required to be enrolled in a minimum of 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.

## 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.

## 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, Economics)	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, Intro to Yearbook)	0.5
Electives	4.0
Service Hours	1.0
<b>Total Required Credits</b>	<b>25</b>

## 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 exercises. This does not apply to tuition payments that will be automatically withdrawn in May.

## 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)

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 anytime 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 administrator. 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 an "F" 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.
- Having completed an apostolic activity and the Dux Esto activity report sheet, the student is to submit the completed form to the Dux Esto Report 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.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> and the media center supervisor for 5<sup>th</sup> period at the beginning of their study period and 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING**

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

## **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.

## 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

## GRADE POINT AVERAGE

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 Courses

Honors English 2	Advanced Placement American History
Honors English 3	Advanced placement American Govt.
Advanced Placement English 4	Advanced Placement Spanish
Honors Pre-Calculus with Trig.	Advanced Placement Biology
Advanced Placement Calculus	Advanced Placement Physics
Honors Calculus II/III	Honors Chemistry
Advanced Placements Statistics	Advanced Placement Chemistry
Honors World History	Advanced Placement Physics

## 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.

## 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.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE

Gross Catholic High School reports scholarships awarded to 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.

**SCHEDULES**  
**REGULAR SCHEDULE**

**48 minute classes**

	7:40	Prayer / Pledge
7:40	8:28	Period 1
8:32	9:20	Period 2
9:25	10:13	Period 3
10:17	11:05	Period 4
<b>11:05</b>	<b>11:29</b>	<b>Lunch A</b>
<b>11:34</b>	<b>12:22</b>	<b>Period 5 A</b>
<b>11:09</b>	<b>11:57</b>	<b>Period 5 B</b>
<b>11:57</b>	<b>12:22</b>	<b>Lunch B</b>
12:26	1:16	Period 6
1:20	2:08	Period 7
2:12	3:00	Period 8

**HOMEROOM / HOUSE SCHEDULE (Tuesdays)**

**44 minute classes**

	7:40	Prayer / Pledge
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
<b>11:23</b>	<b>11:48</b>	<b>Lunch A</b>
<b>11:52</b>	<b>12:36</b>	<b>Period 5 A</b>
<b>11:27</b>	<b>12:11</b>	<b>Period 5 B</b>
<b>12:11</b>	<b>12:36</b>	<b>Lunch B</b>
12:40	1:24	Period 6
1:28	2:12	Period 7
2:16	3:00	Period 8

**LATE START SCHEDULE**

**40 minute classes**

7:30	8:40	Faculty Meeting
	8:45	Prayer / Pledge
8:45	9:25	Period 1
9:29	10:09	Period 2
10:13	10:53	Period 3
10:57	11:37	Period 4
<b>11:37</b>	<b>12:02</b>	<b>Lunch A</b>
<b>12:06</b>	<b>12:46</b>	<b>Period 5 A</b>
<b>11:41</b>	<b>12:21</b>	<b>Period 5 B</b>
<b>12:21</b>	<b>12:46</b>	<b>Lunch B</b>
12:50	1:32	Period 6
1:36	2:16	Period 7
2:20	3:00	Period 8

## MORNING ASSEMBLY/MASS SCHEDULE

### 40 minute classes

	7:40	Prayer / Pledge
7:40	8:20	Period 1
8:24	9:04	Period 2
9:08	10:10	Assembly/Mass
10:14	10:54	Period 3
10:58	11:38	Period 4
<b>11:38</b>	<b>12:03</b>	<b>Lunch A</b>
<b>12:07</b>	<b>12:47</b>	<b>Period 5 A</b>
<b>11:42</b>	<b>12:22</b>	<b>Period 5 B</b>
<b>12:22</b>	<b>12:47</b>	<b>Lunch B</b>
12:51	1:32	Period 6
1:36	2:16	Period 7
2:20	3:00	Period 8

## PEP RALLY SCHEDULE

### 44 minute classes-no advisory

	7:40	Prayer / Pledge
7:40	8:24	Period 1
8:28	9:12	Period 2
9:16	10:00	Period 3
10:04	10:48	Period 4
<b>10:48</b>	<b>11:13</b>	<b>Lunch A</b>
<b>11:17</b>	<b>12:01</b>	<b>Period 5 A</b>
<b>10:52</b>	<b>11:36</b>	<b>Period 5 B</b>
<b>11:36</b>	<b>12:01</b>	<b>Lunch B</b>
12:05	12:50	Period 6
12:54	1:38	Period 7
1:42	2:26	Period 8
2:30	3:00	Pep Rally

## PENANCE SERVICE

### 42 minute classes - 44 minute Penance Service

	7:40	Prayer / Pledge
7:40	8:22	Period 1
8:26	9:08	Period 2
9:12	9:54	Period 3
9:58	10:42	Period 4 A
10:46	11:30	Period 4B
<b>11:30</b>	<b>11:55</b>	<b>Lunch A</b>
<b>11:59</b>	<b>12:41</b>	<b>Period 5 A</b>
<b>11:34</b>	<b>12:16</b>	<b>Period 5 B</b>
<b>12:16</b>	<b>12:41</b>	<b>Lunch B</b>
12:45	1:27	Period 6
1:32	2:14	Period 7
2:18	3:00	Period 8

# 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 non-school activity 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 readmittance 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 readmission.

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 automatically expelled and the parents may request a meeting with the appropriate administrator to determine the possibility of readmittance.

## **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 the 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, 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.

## **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 readmitted on probationary status.

In a case of expulsion, the student and parent(s) may appeal the expulsion within three (3) days 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 readmitted.**

## **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 6<sup>th</sup> period if they have study periods 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Junior students can leave school after 7<sup>th</sup> period if they have a study period 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 may have a policy 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**

Students are expected to make appropriate use of technology as it relates to the school environment. This includes, but is not limited to, the type of information accessed, its language and its intent. Technology should be used for educational purposes only; any other use of technology could subject the user to disciplinary actions.

### **NETWORK ETIQUETTE AND RESPONSIBLE 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. 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 High 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 individual students. 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. Lockers should 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.

## **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-strap 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 1<sup>st</sup> and after April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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.

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. 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 be recorded as a school activity. 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 detention 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 Tardies

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 will be the responsibility of the teacher after 1<sup>st</sup> period. Teachers will emphasize the importance of being on time and explain the classroom rules and procedures for tardies. 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.

## **Tuancy**

1. Tuancy 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 tuancy can be made up and treated the same as make-up work for all other absences.
3. Incidents of tuancy 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 tuancy 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 readmittance. 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 readmittance process.
3. The conference for readmittance 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 readmittance 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 liturgies 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
- Albuteral 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. Ninth 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.

# 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, athletic 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

Robotic 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 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

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **SCHOOL CLOSING**

Local television and radio stations will broadcast any school closings. Please do not call the school.

### **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.

### **MARRIAGE POLICY**

The mission and purpose of Gross Catholic is not consistent with accommodating married students. Students are required to live with a parent or legal guardian. Therefore, any student who marries will be required to leave school and complete his/her education elsewhere or by other means.

### **PREGNANCY POLICY**

Gross Catholic is a pro-life institution and is deeply committed to the belief that life begins at conception. Therefore, any student who becomes pregnant will be encouraged to carry the baby to full term. Administration, guidance personnel, parents, and the couple will pursue all the options for counseling and for completing the student's education.

## **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**

There are four different responses to emergency situations: lockout, lockdown, evacuate and shelter. 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.

## **HOUSE SYSTEM**

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. There will be four Houses. Each House will consist of a faculty Dean, faculty Mentors, senior Co-Captains, and students from various grades. Students will remain in the same House and the same Homeroom Group for all four years. Mentors and Deans also remain with the same group.

Houses will meet for 31 minutes every other Tuesday of the month. Students will continue to be a part of a smaller Homeroom Groups as well. Homeroom Groups will meet for 31 minutes every other Tuesday of the month. This will be time designated for school announcements, tutoring, team/activity meetings, study time, or grade specific activities. Students should use this time for meetings or academic help.

## **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. A council of students meets regularly with the campus minister to plan, organize and facilitate faith sharing activities, liturgies, prayer services, Christian service opportunities, and social events. 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.

**Pastoral Council** is the administrative body of Campus Ministry responsible for the coordination, organization, and execution of all Campus Ministry activities. Pastoral Council is comprised of active Campus Ministry members who have been nominated and elected by their peers in Campus Ministry. The Director of Campus Ministry has complete and final discretion regarding the election and tenure of Pastoral Council Members.

**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!!**