

**NUTRI-SERVE FOOD MANAGEMENT**  
**Saint Mary's School**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Another school year is upon us, and we at Nutri-Serve would like to thank you for having our program again this year. We are looking forward to another year of providing your children nutritional lunches.

**ORDERING in the Classroom**

Students have a choice of five entrees each day. Refer to monthly menu.

\*Each lunch comes with the daily components to make a balanced meal. These sides are listed on the menu under the lunch choices.

**SELECTION**

Ala Carte items are available daily. Students will have an opportunity to purchase healthy snacks along with lunch orders. The updated snack list can be found on the school website. This year we will be offering French Fries on Monday's, Churro's on Wednesday and Funnel Cake on Friday's as an extra ala carte item. Orders for these items will be taken in the classroom in the morning.

**PAYMENT**

All snack, water and Extra Entrees are required to be purchase; they are not included in the Meal price. Parents can send cash/check in to be put on Students account for these purchases. Or if you prefer it can be done with cash at time of purchase.

**As of September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, student lunches will be \$3.30. Prepayments can be sent in to purchase lunch and for any items not included in the lunch. Example: extra entrée, water bottle, snacks, etc. We will start serving lunch on Thursday September 5th. Please send your prepayments in on that date. Checks should be made out to St Mary's Cafeteria.**

**Lunches will be served in the cafeteria, and students will be able to purchase snacks at lunch time if they have the funds to do so. Students are not allowed to charge snacks. Students must have funds available for snack purchases.**

We have received many phone calls from parents who would like to be able to **view their child's account online**. We are in the process of upgrading our system and will let you know when that occurs. It is not available currently. We will keep you posted on the status of the new technology.

Thank you all for your cooperation and assistance. Nutri-Serve Food Management is continually striving to make our child nutrition program the best. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me in the kitchen at 629-6190 ext. 317 or at [smw@nsfm.com](mailto:smw@nsfm.com).

Sincerely,  
Donna Daly  
Food Service Director

**Nutri-Serve Food Management  
Food Service Department  
Saint Mary's School**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Nutri-Serve would like to inform you of our prepayment program. This program is to allow you to put money into your child's account. This payment option will speed up your child's service and enable you to monitor his or her purchases. Prepayments are available in the following increments:

**5 days for \$16.50 10 days for \$33.00 20 days for \$66.00**

**Please note the price of lunch is \$3.30**

Prepayments are put into your child's account. It is one account for both lunch and snack. **If you prefer your child to NOT purchase snack, please note this on the form below. Also, you can request to limit your child's snacks, by stressing how much your child can spend per day. This limit can be put directly on the account.**

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. If you have any concerns, please contact the kitchen at 629-6190 ext. 317 or email at [smw@nsfm.com](mailto:smw@nsfm.com). Please make checks payable to St. Mary's School Cafeteria.

\*\*\*\*\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Room: \_\_\_\_\_

5 days \$16.50\_\_\_\_\_ 10 days \$33.00\_\_\_\_\_ 20 days \$66.00\_\_\_\_\_

Please Make checks payable to St. Mary's School Cafeteria.

# Celebrate Your Child's Birthday!

Nutri-Serve Food Management would like to help serve a healthy snack for your child's birthday. You can purchase a "Birthday Treat" for your child and their classmates.

The Cafeteria will provide each student in your child's class with a birthday bag containing your choice of the following:

## Please Circle Your Snack Choice

1. Soft Pretzel for \$.80 each
2. Ice Cream for \$1.25 each
3. Popcorn Bag for \$1.00 each

*All Items Meet with State of New Jersey Model Nutrition Requirements*

You have the opportunity to choose the birthday treat for your child's class. In addition, the birthday child will receive a "birthday surprise!" All snacks will be delivered to your child and classmates in the classroom during lunch.

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## **ORDER FORM**

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE CAFETERIA AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE PARTY DATE.**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday Celebration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Students in **Class OR Grade** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per child= \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH ORDER

Checks are made payable to St Mary's School Cafeteria

# SnackHealthy

In Moderation after a Balanced Lunch



## Snack Choices

## Prices

Soft Pretzel

\$ 1.00

Switch Drink

\$ 2.50

Cookies

\$ .85

Chipwich Ice Cream

\$ 2.25

Ice Cream

\$ 2.00

Baked Snacks

\$ 1.85

Doritos

\$ 1.50

Hot Cheetos

\$ 2.00

8oz Water

\$ .80

Rice Krispies Treat

\$ 1.50

Nacho's & Cheese

\$ 2.00

Churros Wednesday

\$ 2.00

French Fries

\$ 2.00



St Mary School



## **St. Mary School**

### **School Lunch Charge Policy**

Every student at St. Mary School will be issued a cafeteria account. Participation in the program is voluntary. Parents or guardians may deposit money in advance of a students' account in the form of cash or check sent to the cafeteria at any time.

In the event that a student does not have a lunch with him/her that day, and to avoid a child going throughout the school day without proper nourishment, St. Mary School will provide the student a lunch with the cost to be reimbursed the next school day by the parent/guardian. Students may have a maximum of (-\$20.00) on their account. Charge letters will be sent home as needed. After the third written notice, a phone call will be made to alert the parent/guardian that their student has reached the charge limit.

Any students whose account is at the charge limit and does not bring a lunch from home will be provided with a daily hot entrée.

Negative balances can be avoided by making a payment directly to the cafeteria in the form of cash or check.

A la carte items (snacks) are not part of the School Lunch Program and cannot be charged if the student has a zero or negative balance on their lunch account.

# St. Mary School Wellness Policy

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## St. Mary School Wellness Policy

### Preamble

St. Mary School (hereto referred to as the District) is committed to the optimal development of every student. The District believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental, and social success, we need to create positive, safe, and health-promoting learning environments at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year.

Research shows that two components, good nutrition and physical activity before, during, and after the school day, are strongly correlated with positive student outcomes. For example, student participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Breakfast Program is associated with higher grades and standardized test scores, lower absenteeism, and better performance on cognitive tasks.<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6,7</sup> Conversely, less-than-adequate consumption of specific foods including fruits, vegetables, and dairy products, is associated with lower grades among students.<sup>8,9,10</sup> In addition, students who are physically active through active transport to and from school, recess, physical activity breaks, high-quality physical education, and extracurricular activities – do better academically.<sup>11,12,13,14</sup>

This policy outlines the District's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. Specifically, this policy establishes goals and procedures to ensure that:

- Students in the District have access to healthy foods throughout the school day—both through reimbursable school meals and other foods available throughout the school campus—in accordance with Federal and state nutrition standards;
- Students receive quality nutrition education that helps them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors;
- Students have opportunities to be physically active before, during, and after school;
- Schools engage in nutrition and physical activity promotion and other activities that promote student wellness;
- School staff are encouraged and supported to practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors in and out of school;
- The community is engaged in supporting the work of the District in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and
- The District establishes and maintains an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about, and monitoring of the policy and its established goals and objectives.

This policy applies to all students, staff, and schools in the District.



**I. School Wellness Committee**

***Committee Role and Membership***

The District will convene a representative district wellness committee (hereto referred to as the DWC or work within an existing school health committee) that meets at least four times per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation, and periodic review and update of this district-level wellness policy (heretofore referred as “wellness policy”).

The DWC membership will represent all school levels (elementary and secondary schools) and include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program (ex., school nutrition director); physical education teachers; health education teachers; school health professionals (ex., health education teachers, school health services staff [i.e., nurses, physicians, dentists, health educators, and other allied health personnel who provide school health services], and mental health and social services staff [i.e., school counselors, psychologists, social workers, or psychiatrists]; school administrators (ex., superintendent, principal, vice principal), school board members; health professionals (ex., dietitians, doctors, nurses, dentists); and the general public. To the extent possible, the DWC will include representatives from each school building and reflect the diversity of the community.

***Leadership***

The Superintendent or designee(s) will convene the DWC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure each school’s compliance with the policy.

The name(s), title(s), and contact information (email address is sufficient) of this/these individual(s) is:

Name	Title	Email address	Role
Patricia Mancuso	Principal	<a href="mailto:principal@smarys.org">principal@smarys.org</a>	
Mary Baron	Business Admin.	<a href="mailto:mbaron@olopp.org">mbaron@olopp.org</a>	
Gail Connelly	Phys. Ed. Teacher	<a href="mailto:gconnelly@smarys.org">gconnelly@smarys.org</a>	
Maddie Hindermyer	Nurse	<a href="mailto:rn@smarys.org">rn@smarys.org</a>	
Donna Daly	Food Service Manager		

Each school will designate a school wellness policy coordinator, who will ensure compliance with the policy. Refer to Appendix A for a list of school level wellness policy coordinators.

## **II. Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability, and Community Engagement**

### ***Implementation Plan***

The District will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness policy. The plan delineates roles, responsibilities, actions, and timelines specific to each school, and includes information about who will be responsible to make what change, by how much, where, and when, as well as specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus, food and beverage marketing, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. It is recommended that the school use the [Healthy Schools Program online tools](#) to complete a school level assessment based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s School Health Index, create an action plan that fosters implementation, and generate an annual progress report.

This wellness policy and the progress reports can be found at: [www.smarys.org](http://www.smarys.org)

### ***Recordkeeping***

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy in the main office. Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including (1) Efforts to actively solicit DWC membership from the required stakeholder groups; and (2) These groups’ participation in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy;
- Documentation of annual policy progress reports for each school under its jurisdiction; and
- Documentation of the triennial assessment\* of the policy for each school under its jurisdiction;
- Documentation demonstrating compliance with public notification requirements, including: (1) Methods by which the wellness policy, annual progress reports, and triennial assessments are made available to the public; and (2) Efforts to actively notify families about the availability of wellness policy.

### ***Annual Progress Reports***

The school will compile and publish an annual report to share basic information about the wellness policy and report on the progress of the school within the district in meeting wellness goals. This annual report will be published around the same time each year (September) and will include, but is not limited to the following information:

- The website address for the wellness policy and/or how the public can receive/access a copy of the wellness policy;
- A description of the school’s progress in meeting the wellness policy goals;
- A summary of each school's events or activities related to wellness policy implementation;
- The name, position title, and contact information of the designated District policy leader(s) identified in Section I; and
- Information on how individuals and the public can get involved with the DWC or SWC.

The annual report will be available in English/Spanish.

The school will actively notify households/families of the availability of the annual report.

The DWC will establish and monitor goals and objectives for the District's schools, specific and appropriate for each instructional unit (elementary or secondary OR elementary, middle, and high school, as appropriate), for each of the content-specific components listed in Sections III-V of this policy.

### ***Triennial Progress Assessments***

At least once every three years, the District will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

- The extent to which schools under the jurisdiction of the District are in compliance with the wellness policy;
- The extent to which the District's wellness policy compares to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's model wellness policy; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the District's wellness policy.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is Patricia Mancuso.

The DWC, in collaboration with individual schools, will monitor schools' compliance with this wellness policy.

The school will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

### ***Revisions and Updating the Policy***

The DWC will update or modify the wellness policy based on the results of the annual progress reports and triennial assessments, and/or as District priorities change; community needs change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; and new Federal or state guidance or standards are issued. **The wellness policy will be assessed and updated as indicated at least every three years, following the triennial assessment.**

### ***Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications***

The District is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. The District will actively communicate ways in which representatives of DWC and others can participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of means appropriate for that district. The District will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. The District will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the district's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. The District will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically

appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the district and individual schools are communicating other important school information with parents.

The District will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the wellness policy annually, at a minimum. The District will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports.

### III. Nutrition

#### ***School Meals***

Our school district is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and zero grams *trans* fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer’s specification); and to meet the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns, and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

All schools within the District participate in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and after school snack program. All schools within the District are committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and other applicable Federal child nutrition programs, that:

- Are accessible to all students;
- Are appealing and attractive to children;
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings;
- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and Federal statutes and regulations. (The District offers reimbursable school meals that meet [USDA nutrition standards](#).)
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least ten of the following [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#):
  - Whole fruit options are displayed in attractive bowls or baskets (instead of chaffing dishes or hotel pans)
  - Sliced or cut fruit is available daily
  - Daily fruit options are displayed in a location in the line of sight and reach of students
  - All available vegetable options have been given creative or descriptive names
  - Daily vegetable options are bundled into all grab and go meals available to students
  - All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal
  - White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers
  - Alternative entrée options (e.g., salad bar, yogurt parfaits, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas
  - A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area available to students (e.g., salad bars, snack rooms, etc.)
  - Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor, and promotional ideas
  - Student artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas
  - Daily announcements are used to promote and market menu options

:

- Menus will be posted on the school website and will include nutrient content and ingredients.

- Menus will be created/reviewed by a Registered Dietitian or other certified nutrition professional.
- School meals are administered by a team of child nutrition professionals.
- The District child nutrition program will accommodate students with special dietary needs.
- Students will be allowed at least 10 minutes to eat breakfast and at least 20 minutes to eat lunch, counting from the time they have received their meal and are seated (meets HSP Gold level). Students are served lunch at a reasonable and appropriate time of day.
- Lunch will follow the recess period to better support learning and healthy eating.
- Participation in Federal child nutrition programs will be promoted among students and families to help ensure that families know what programs are available in their children's school.

### ***Staff Qualifications and Professional Development***

All school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the [USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals](#). These school nutrition personnel will refer to [USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website](#) to search for training that meets their learning needs.

### ***Water***

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day\* and throughout every school campus\* ("school campus" and "school day" are defined in the glossary). The District will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes. In addition, students will be allowed to bring and carry (approved) water bottles filled with only water with them throughout the day.

### ***Competitive Foods and Beverages***

The District is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus\* during the school day\* support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (i.e., "competitive" foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day, and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits. A summary of the standards and information are available at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-smart-snacks>. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation provides a set of tools to assist with implementation of Smart Snacks available at [www.healthiergeneration.org/smartsnacks](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/smartsnacks).

To support healthy food choices and improve student health and well-being, all foods and beverages outside the reimbursable school meal programs that are sold to students on the school campus during the school day\* will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards. These standards will apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold, which may include, but are not limited to, a la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores, and snack or food carts.

**Celebrations and Rewards**

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards including through:

1. Celebrations and parties. The district will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas. Healthy party ideas from the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) and from the [USDA](#).
2. Classroom snacks brought by parents. The District will provide to parents a [list of foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards; and
3. Rewards and incentives. The District will provide teachers and other relevant school staff a [list of alternative ways to reward children](#). Foods and beverages will not be used as a reward, or withheld as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior.  
*[Meets HSP Silver]*

**Fundraising**

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus\* during the school day\*. The District will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas *[examples from the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) and the [USDA](#)]*.

**Nutrition Promotion**

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs. Students and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout schools, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Nutrition promotion also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to students and is most effective when implemented consistently through a comprehensive and multi-channel approach by school staff and teachers, parents, students, and the community.

The District will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through at least:

- Implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#); and
- Promoting foods and beverages that meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Additional possible promotion techniques that the District and individual schools may use are available at [www.healthiergeneration.org/smartsnacks](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/smartsnacks).

**Nutrition Education**

The District aims to teach, model, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;

- Is part of not only health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;
- Include enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits, and school gardens;
- Promote fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, and healthy food preparation methods;
- Emphasize caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);
- Link with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, other school foods, and nutrition-related community services;
- Teach media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing; and
- Include nutrition education training for teachers and other staff.
- *All health education teachers will provide opportunities for students to practice or rehearse the skills taught through the health education curricula (meets HSP Silver/Gold level).]*

### **Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education**

The District will include in the health education curriculum the following essential topics on healthy eating:

- The relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention
- Food guidance from [MyPlate](#)
- Reading and using USDA's food labels
- Eating a variety of foods every day
- Balancing food intake and physical activity
- Eating more fruits, vegetables, and whole grain products
- Choosing foods that are low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol and do not contain *trans* fat
- Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars
- Eating more calcium-rich foods
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Risks of unhealthy weight control practices
- Accepting body size differences
- Food safety
- Importance of water consumption
- Importance of eating breakfast
- Making healthy choices when eating at restaurants
- Eating disorders
- The Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Reducing sodium intake
- Social influences on healthy eating, including media, family, peers, and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to nutrition and dietary behavior
- How to develop a plan and track progress toward achieving a personal goal to eat healthfully
- Resisting peer pressure related to unhealthy dietary behavior
- Influencing, supporting, or advocating for others' healthy dietary behavior



[USDA's Team Nutrition](#) provides free nutrition education and promotion materials, including standards-based nutrition education curricula and lesson plans, posters, interactive games, menu graphics, and more.

### ***Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools***

The District is committed to providing a school environment that ensures opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. The District strives to teach students how to make informed choices about nutrition, health, and physical activity. These efforts will be weakened if students are subjected to advertising on District property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information the District is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of the District to protect and promote student's health by permitting advertising and marketing for only those foods and beverages that are permitted to be sold on the school campus, consistent with the District's wellness policy.

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus\* during the school day\* will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

Food advertising and marketing is defined<sup>15</sup> as an oral, written, or graphic statements made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product made by the producer, manufacturer, seller, or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product. This term includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Brand names, trademarks, logos or tags, except when placed on a physically present food or beverage product or its container.
- Displays, such as on vending machine exteriors.
- Corporate brand, logo, name, or trademark on school equipment, such as marquees, message boards, scoreboards, or backboards (Note: immediate replacement of these items are not required; however, districts will consider replacing or updating scoreboards or other durable equipment over time so that decisions about the replacement include compliance with the marketing policy.)
- Corporate brand, logo, name, or trademark on cups used for beverage dispensing, menu boards, coolers, trash cans, and other food service equipment; as well as on posters, book covers, pupil assignment books, or school supplies displayed, distributed, offered, or sold by the District.
- Advertisements in school publications or school mailings.
- Free product samples, taste tests, or coupons of a product, or free samples displaying advertising of a product.

## **IV. Physical Activity**

Children and adolescents should participate in 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive, school-based physical activity program (CSPAP) that includes these components: physical education, recess, classroom-based physical activity, walk and bicycle to school, and out-of-school time activities and the district is committed to providing these opportunities. Schools will



ensure that these varied opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education (addressed in “Physical Education” subsection). All schools in the district will be encouraged to participate in *Let’s Move!* Active Schools ([www.letsmoveschools.org](http://www.letsmoveschools.org)) in order to successfully address all CSPAP areas.

Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, physical activity breaks, or physical education) **will not be withheld** as punishment for any reason. This does not include participation on sports teams that have specific academic requirements. The district will provide teachers and other school staff with a [list of ideas](#) for alternative ways to discipline students.

To the extent practicable, the District will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to students to be active. The District will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

### ***Physical Education***

The District will provide students with physical education, using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education. The physical education curriculum will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and will help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts (discussed in the “*Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education*” subsection).

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes. The District will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

All District **elementary students** in each grade will receive physical education for at least 60-80 minutes per week throughout the school year.

All [District] **secondary students** (middle and high school) are required to take the equivalent of one academic year of physical education.

The District physical education program will promote student physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity assessments (via the [Presidential Youth Fitness Program](#) or other appropriate assessment tool) and will use criterion-based reporting for each student.

### ***Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education***

The District will include in the health education curriculum the following essential topics on physical activity:

- The physical, psychological, or social benefits of physical activity
- How physical activity can contribute to a healthy weight
- How physical activity can contribute to the academic learning process
- How an inactive lifestyle contributes to chronic disease
- Health-related fitness, that is, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition
- Differences between physical activity, exercise, and fitness
- Phases of an exercise session, that is, warm up, workout, and cool down
- Overcoming barriers to physical activity

- Decreasing sedentary activities, such as TV watching
- Opportunities for physical activity in the community
- Preventing injury during physical activity
- Weather-related safety, for example, avoiding heat stroke, hypothermia, and sunburn while being physically active
- How much physical activity is enough, that is, determining frequency, intensity, time, and type of physical activity
- Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan
- Monitoring progress toward reaching goals in an individualized physical activity plan
- Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids
- Social influences on physical activity, including media, family, peers, and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to physical activity and fitness
- How to influence, support, or advocate for others to engage in physical activity
- How to resist peer pressure that discourages physical activity

### ***Recess (Elementary)***

All elementary schools will offer at least **15 minutes of recess** on all or most days during the school year: This policy may be waived on early dismissal or late arrival days. If recess is offered before lunch, schools will have appropriate hand-washing facilities and/or hand-sanitizing mechanisms located just inside/outside the cafeteria to ensure proper hygiene prior to eating and students are required to use these mechanisms before eating. Hand-washing time, as well as time to put away coats/hats/gloves, will be built in to the recess transition period/timeframe before students enter the cafeteria.

**Outdoor recess** will be offered when weather is feasible for outdoor play

In the event that the school or district must conduct **indoor recess**, teachers and staff will follow the indoor recess guidelines that promote physical activity for students, to the extent practicable. The school will maintain and enforce its own indoor recess guidelines.

Recess will complement, not substitute, physical education class. Recess monitors or teachers will encourage students to be active, and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

### ***Physical Activity Breaks (Elementary and Secondary)***

The District recognizes that students are more attentive and ready to learn if provided with periodic breaks when they can be physically active or stretch. Thus, students will be offered **periodic opportunities** to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. The District recommends teachers provide short (3-5 minute) physical activity breaks to students during and between classroom time. These physical activity breaks will complement, not substitute, for physical education class, recess, and class transition periods.

The District will provide resources and links to resources, tools, and technology with ideas for physical activity breaks. Resources and ideas are available through [USDA](#) and the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#).

### ***Active Academics***

Teachers will incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into “core” subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, math, language arts, social studies, and others) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day.

The District will support classroom teachers incorporating physical activity and employing kinesthetic learning approaches into core subjects by providing annual professional development opportunities and resources, including information on leading activities, activity options, as well as making available background material on the connections between learning and movement.

Teachers will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

***Before and After School Activities***

The District offers opportunities for students to participate in physical activity either before and/or after the school day (or both) through a variety of methods. The District will encourage students to be physically active before and after school by offering options such as clubs, physical activity in aftercare, intramurals, or sports programs.

**V. Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness**

The District will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, other food and beverage venues, and physical activity facilities. The District will coordinate and integrate other initiatives related to physical activity, physical education, nutrition, and other wellness components so all efforts are complementary, not duplicative, and work towards the same set of goals and objectives promoting student well-being, optimal development, and strong educational outcomes.

Schools in the District are encouraged to coordinate content across curricular areas that promote student health, such as teaching nutrition concepts in mathematics, with consultation provided by either the school or the District’s curriculum experts.

All efforts related to obtaining federal, state, or association recognition for efforts, or grants/funding opportunities for healthy school environments will be coordinated with and complementary of the wellness policy, including but not limited to ensuring the involvement of the DWC/SWC.

All school-sponsored events will adhere to the wellness policy. All school-sponsored wellness events will include physical activity opportunities.

***Community Partnerships***

The District will continue relationships with community partners (i.e. hospitals, universities/colleges, local businesses, etc.) in support of this wellness policy’s implementation. Existing and new community partnerships and sponsorships will be evaluated to ensure that they are consistent with the wellness policy and its goals.

***Community Health Promotion and Engagement***

The District will promote to parents/caregivers, families, and the general community the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Families will be informed and invited to participate in school-sponsored activities and will receive information about health promotion efforts.

As described in the “Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications” subsection, the District will use electronic mechanisms (such as email or displaying notices on the district’s

website), as well as non-electronic mechanisms, (such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents), to ensure that all families are actively notified of opportunities to participate in school-sponsored activities and receive information about health promotion efforts.

***Staff Wellness and Health Promotion***

The DWC will have a staff wellness subcommittee that focuses on staff wellness issues, identifies and disseminates wellness resources, and performs other functions that support staff wellness in coordination with human resources staff. The subcommittee leader's name is Marie Berni.

Schools in the District will implement strategies to support staff in actively promoting and modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors. Examples of strategies schools will use, as well as specific actions staff members can take, include \_eating healthy, promoting eating healthy snacks in the classroom and promote physical activity. The District promotes staff member participation in health promotion programs and will support programs for staff members on healthy eating/weight management that are accessible and free or low-cost.

***Professional Learning***

When feasible, the District will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school (e.g., increasing the use of kinesthetic teaching approaches or incorporating nutrition lessons into math class). Professional learning will help District staff understand the connections between academics and health and the ways in which health and wellness are integrated into ongoing district reform or academic improvement plans/efforts.

*Glossary:*

**Extended School Day** - time during before and afterschool activities that includes clubs, intramural sports, band and choir practice, drama rehearsals, etc.

**School Campus** - areas that are owned or leased by the school and used at any time for school-related activities such as the school building or on the school campus, including on the outside of the school building, school buses or other vehicles used to transport students, athletic fields, and stadiums (e.g. on scoreboards, coolers, cups, and water bottles), or parking lots.

**School Day** - midnight the night before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day.

**Triennial** – recurring every three years.

Appendix A: School Level Contacts

School	Name	Title	Email Address	Role
SMS	Patricia Mancuso	Principal	<a href="mailto:principal@smarys.org">principal@smarys.org</a>	
SMS	Mary Baron	BA	<a href="mailto:mbaron@olopp.org">mbaron@olopp.org</a>	

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<sup>3</sup> Murphy JM. Breakfast and learning: an updated review. *Current Nutrition & Food Science*. 2007; 3:3–36.

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<sup>5</sup> Pollitt E, Mathews R. Breakfast and cognition: an integrative summary. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. 1998; 67(4), 804S–813S.

<sup>6</sup> Rampersaud GC, Pereira MA, Girard BL, Adams J, Metz J. Breakfast habits, nutritional status, body weight, and academic performance in children and adolescents. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*. 2005;105(5):743–760, quiz 761–762.

<sup>7</sup> Taras, H. Nutrition and student performance at school. *Journal of School Health*. 2005;75(6):199–213.

<sup>8</sup> MacLellan D, Taylor J, Wood K. Food intake and academic performance among adolescents. *Canadian Journal of Dietetic Practice and Research*. 2008;69(3):141–144.

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<sup>10</sup> Neumark-Sztainer D, Story M, Resnick MD, Blum RW. Correlates of inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption among adolescents. *Preventive Medicine*. 1996;25(5):497–505.

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<sup>12</sup> Singh A, Uijtendwilligne L, Twisk J, van Mechelen W, Chinapaw M. *Physical activity and performance at school: A systematic review of the literature including a methodological quality assessment*. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*, 2012; 166(1):49-55.

<sup>13</sup> Haapala E, Poikkeus A-M, Kukkonen-Harjula K, Tompuri T, Lintu N, Väistö J, Leppänen P, Laaksonen D, Lindi V, Lakka T. *Association of physical activity and sedentary behavior with academic skills – A follow-up study among primary school children*. *PLoS ONE*, 2014; 9(9): e107031.

<sup>14</sup> Hillman C, Pontifex M, Castelli D, Khan N, Raine L, Scudder M, Drollette E, Moore R, Wu C-T, Kamijo K. *Effects of the FITKids randomized control trial on executive control and brain function*. *Pediatrics* 2014; 134(4): e1063-1071.

<sup>15</sup> Change Lab Solutions. (2014). *District Policy Restricting the Advertising of Food and Beverages Not Permitted to be Sold on School Grounds*. Retrieved from <http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/district-policy-school-food-ads>.



# Wellness Policy Assessment Tool

Form 357 Rev 8/17

This template provides information on wellness policy goals and practices within the SFA. Use this tool to track progress and gather ideas on ways to create a healthier school environment. A separate assessment should be completed for each school, or at a minimum, each school level. The wellness policy and completed assessment must be available to the public. Triennial assessment is required by USDA, annual assessments are strongly encouraged in New Jersey.

SFA/District Name

Policy Reviewer

School Name St. Mary School

Date 10/31/24

Select all grades: PK  K  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12

## I. Public Involvement

Yes  No We encourage the following to participate in the development, implementation, and evaluation of our wellness policy:

- Administrators  School Food Service Staff  P.E. Teachers  Parents  
 School Board Members  School Health Professionals  Students  Public

Yes  No Person in charge of compliance:

Name/Title:

Patricia Mancuso, Principal

Yes  No The policy is made available to the public.

Indicate How:

Website

Yes  No Our policy goals are measured and the results are communicated to the public.

Please describe:

Assessment posted on website

Yes  No Our district completes triennial reviews of the wellness policy. If more frequently, please describe:

## II. Nutrition Education

Yes  No Our district's written wellness policy includes measurable goals for nutrition education.

Yes  No We offer standards based nutrition education in a variety of subjects (e.g. science, health, math, etc).

Yes  No We offer nutrition education to students in:  Elementary School  Middle School  High School

## III. Nutrition Promotion

Yes  No Our district's written wellness policy includes measurable goals for nutrition promotion.

Yes  No We promote healthy eating and nutrition education with signage, use of creative menus, posters, bulletin boards, etc.

Yes  No We have reviewed *Smarter Lunchroom* techniques and evaluated our ability to implement some of them.

Yes  No We place fruits and vegetables where they are easy to access (e.g. near the cafeteria cashier or near the front of the line).

Yes  No We ensure students have access to hand-washing facilities prior to meals.

Yes  No We annually evaluate how to market and promote our school meal program(s).

Yes  No We regularly share school meal nutrition, calorie, and sodium content information with students and families.

Yes  No We offer taste testing or menu planning opportunities to our students.

Yes  No We participate in Farm to School activities and/or have a school garden.

Yes  No We only advertise and promote nutritious foods and beverages on school grounds (e.g. buildings, playing fields, etc).

Yes  No We price nutritious foods and beverages lower than less nutritious foods and beverages.

Yes  No We offer fruits or non-fried vegetables in:  Vending Machines  School Stores  Snack Bars  à La Carte

Yes  No We have nutritional standards for foods/beverages served at school parties, celebrations, events, etc.

Yes  No We provide teachers with samples of alternative reward options other than food or beverages.

Yes  No We prohibit the use of food and beverages as a reward.



**Yes No IV. Nutrition Guidelines** (Cont. from page 1)

- Our district's written wellness policy addresses nutrition standards for USDA reimbursable meals.
- We operate the School Breakfast Program:  Before School  In the Classroom  Grab & Go
- We follow all nutrition regulations for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- We operate an Afterschool Snack Program.
- We operate the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.
- We have a Certified Food Handler as our Food Service Manager.
- We have adopted and implemented *Smart Snacks* nutrition standards for ALL items sold during school hours, including:  
 as à La Carte Offerings  in School Stores  in Vending Machines  as Fundraisers

**Yes No V. Physical Activity**

- Our district's written wellness policy includes measurable goals for physical activity.
- We provide physical education for elementary students on a weekly basis.
- We provide physical education for middle school during a term or semester.
- We require physical education classes for graduation (high schools only).
- We provide recess for elementary students on a daily basis.
- We provide opportunities for physical activity integrated throughout the day.
- We prohibit staff and teachers from keeping kids in from recess for punitive reasons.
- Teachers are allowed to offer physical activity as a reward for students.
- We offer before or after school physical activity:  Competitive sports  Non-competitive sports  Other clubs

**VI. Additional Info:** Indicate any additional wellness practices and/or future goals used to establish a school environment that promotes students' health, well-being, and ability to learn. Describe progress made in attaining these goals.

**VII. Contact Information:**

For more information about this school's wellness policy/practices, or ways to get involved, contact the Wellness Committee Coordinator.

Name	<input type="text" value="Patricia Mancuso"/>	Position/Title	<input type="text" value="Principal"/>
Email	<input type="text" value="principal@smarys.org"/>	Phone	<input type="text" value="856-629-6190"/>