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SMS Wellness Policy

Purpose

Saint Mary School recognizes that healthy students are better able to learn, grow, and live out their God-given potential. In partnership with parents, the Church, and the community, our school is committed to promoting lifelong healthy habits through nutritious food choices, regular physical activity, health education, and a faith-filled environment that supports the well-being of the whole child.

Nutrition Promotion and Education

Saint Mary School will:

- Encourage healthy eating habits through age-appropriate nutrition education integrated into the curriculum when appropriate.
- Promote healthy food choices through school meal programs and classroom instruction.
- Provide students with access to clean drinking water throughout the school day.

School Meals and Foods

All meals served through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs will meet or exceed USDA nutrition standards. All foods and beverages sold to students during the school day will strive to comply with USDA Smart Snacks in School requirements. Foods provided, but not sold, during the school day are encouraged to support healthy eating habits and student wellness.

Physical Activity

Students will participate in regular physical education classes and will be provided opportunities for daily physical activity through recess and other school activities, as appropriate. Physical activity will not be withheld as a routine form of discipline.

Wellness Environment

Saint Mary School will foster a safe, respectful, and faith-centered environment that supports the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being of every student. Wellness activities may include health education, social-emotional learning, opportunities for prayer and reflection, and programs that encourage healthy lifestyles.

Food and Beverage Marketing

Only foods and beverages that meet USDA Smart Snacks standards should be marketed to students during the school day.

Implementation and Review

The principal or designee shall oversee implementation of this policy. Parents, school staff, students, the food service provider, and other interested community members will be invited to participate in the periodic review and update of this policy. The policy and progress toward its goals will be made available to the school community. A formal assessment of the policy will be conducted at least once every three years in accordance with USDA requirements.

Link to provide feedback: <https://forms.gle/7UWPgVTdN15TESbs7>

Wellness Policy Assessment Tool

Form 357 Rev 12/15

This template provides information on wellness policy goals and practices within the LEA. 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.

LEA/District Name Diocese of Columbus

Reviewer Kayla Elrich

School Name Saint Mary School

Date 1-6-26

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

Yes No I. Public Involvement

☒ ☐ 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

☒ ☐ We have a designee in charge of compliance.

Name/Title: Kayla Elrich, Principal

☒ ☐ We make our policy available to the public.

Please describe: Website

☐ ☒ We measure the implementation of our policy goals and communicate results to the public.

Please describe: Measure- yes, Communicate results- no

☒ ☐ Our district reviews the wellness policy at least annually.

Yes No II. Nutrition Education

☒ ☐ Our district's written wellness policy includes measurable goals for nutrition education.

☒ ☐ We offer standards based nutrition education in a variety of subjects (e.g. science, health, math, etc).

☒ ☐ We offer nutrition education to students in: ☒ Elementary School ☒ Middle School ☐ High School

Yes No III. Nutrition Promotion

☒ ☐ Our district's written wellness policy includes measurable goals for nutrition promotion.

☒ ☐ We promote healthy eating and nutrition education with signage, use of creative menus, posters, bulletin boards, etc.

☐ ☒ We have reviewed *Smarter Lunchroom* techniques and evaluated our ability to implement some of them.

☒ ☐ We place fruits and vegetables where they are easy to access (e.g. near the cafeteria cashier or near the front of the line).

☒ ☐ We ensure students have access to hand-washing facilities prior to meals.

☒ ☐ We annually evaluate how to market and promote our school meal program(s).

☐ ☒ We regularly share school meal nutrition, calorie, and sodium content information with students and families.

☒ ☐ We offer taste testing or menu planning opportunities to our students.

☐ ☒ We participate in Farm to School activities and/or have a school garden.

☐ ☒ We only advertise and promote nutritious foods and beverages on school grounds (e.g. buildings, playing fields, etc).

☐ ☒ We price nutritious foods and beverages lower than less nutritious foods and beverages.

☒ ☐ We offer fruits or non-fried vegetables in: ☐ Vending Machines ☐ School Stores ☐ Snack Bars ☒ à La Carte

☐ ☒ We have nutritional standards for foods/beverages served at school parties, celebrations, events, etc.

☒ ☐ We provide teachers with samples of alternative reward options other than food or beverages.

☐ ☒ We prohibit the use of food and beverages as a reward.

(Cont on page 2)

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

Yes No **VI. Other School Based Wellness Activities**

- ☒ ☐ Our district's written wellness policy includes measurable goals for other school-based activities that promote wellness.
- ☒ ☐ We provide training to staff on the importance of modeling healthy behaviors.
- ☐ ☒ We provide annual training to all staff on: ☐ Nutrition ☐ Physical Activity
- ☒ ☐ We have a staff wellness program.
- ☒ ☐ We have school district staff who are CPR certified (e.g. teachers, coaches, counselors, food service staff) .
- ☐ ☒ We actively promote walk or bike to school for students with Safe Routes to School or other related programs.
- ☒ ☐ We have a recycling /environmental stewardship program.
- ☐ ☒ We have a recognition /reward program for students who exhibit healthy behaviors.
- ☒ ☐ We have community partnerships which support programs, projects, events, or activities.

VII. Progress Report: Indicate any additional wellness practices and/or future goals and describe progress made in attaining the goals of the local wellness policy

VIII. Contact Information:

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

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