



*Routt Catholic High School*

*2026-2027*

*Faculty and Staff Handbook*

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## WELCOME

Welcome! You have joined the staff of Routt Catholic High School in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois for the **2026-2027** school year.

Each of us serving here is truly blessed to be advancing the mission of the Catholic Church. We are called to be good stewards of the gifts and talents God provided each of us as we strive to perform our job responsibilities to serve the Catholic Church and Routt Catholic High School communities. Living a life of true discipleship to Jesus Christ begins with our actions and the manner in which we perform our jobs and interact with those we serve. How we conduct ourselves in our work, in our personal life, and in our spiritual life should exhibit our deep love of Christ and of His Church. By living a life dedicated first to Jesus our Savior, performing charitable acts, growing in our faith life, and loving one another as He loved us, we can best serve one another, the Bishop, Pastor, Principal-Minister, and those in the Routt Catholic High School community.

This employee handbook contains information about the employment policies and practices of Routt Catholic High School. Please take time to read this Handbook carefully as it is a valuable reference for understanding your job and Routt Catholic High School. Sign the acknowledgment at the end to show that you have read, understood, and agree to the contents of this handbook, which sets out the basic rules and guidelines concerning your employment.

The Principal-Minister reserve the right to interpret, modify, or supplement the provisions of this handbook at any time. Neither this handbook nor any other communication by a management representative or other communications, whether oral or written, are intended to create a contract of employment (this Employee Handbook does not guarantee that you will be employed for any specific time period). Any agreement to employment for a specified period of time will be put into writing and signed by the Principal-Minister of Routt Catholic High School.

Please understand that no employee handbook can address every situation in the workplace. The Principal-Minister retains the right to make decisions involving employment as needed in order to conduct the work of serving students and families in a manner that is beneficial to the employees and Routt Catholic High School. This Employee Handbook supersedes and replaces any and all prior Employee Handbooks for faculty and staff serving Catholic schools in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Routt Catholic High School complies with all applicable federal and state law. This handbook generally reflects those laws where appropriate. Routt Catholic High School also complies with any applicable local laws, even though there may not be an express written policy contained in the handbook.

If you have any questions about your employment or any provisions in this handbook, please contact the Principal-Minister.

May God bless you as you journey with the staff of Routt Catholic High School.

## MISSION & EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

**School Facilities:** Routt Catholic High School is located at 500 East College Street in Jacksonville, IL. We are affiliated with Our Saviour Parish. We are part of the Springfield Diocese's in Springfield, IL. Routt High School was founded in 1902 through the inspiration of Rev. Dean John W. Crowe, the encouragement of Fr. Francis Formaz and the generosity of the Routt family. See the Routt Catholic High School website History page for more information and detail.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of Routt Catholic is to cultivate a faith-filled learning environment that fosters spiritual growth, academic excellence, and the development and well-being of each student-preparing them to become responsible, compassionate, and engaged members of society.

**Philosophy, Objectives, and Purpose of Program:** The life and message of Jesus Christ forms the foundation of Routt Catholic High School. We strive to instill in our students, through liturgy, worship, community, and example, the living message of the Gospel. We strive to develop the intellectual, spiritual, and physical potential of each individual, as gifted by God. The affirmation and development of these gifts generate a responsible sharing of them in service to all of God's people, both now and in the future.

Routt Catholic High School is committed to building a culture founded on Gospel values. Catholic teachings will be imparted to all students and staff and all students and staff are expected to enhance the school's Catholic mission. To this end, parents, students, faculty, staff, and visitors are all called to ensure that all members of the community are consistently treated with dignity and respect as made in the image and likeness of God.

Routt Catholic High School Objectives include:

1. To foster the development of the students' faith in Jesus Christ through example and catechesis.
2. To challenge the students in the practice of their faith by prayer, by participation in Mass and the Sacraments and by living according to Christian principles.
3. To offer a curriculum which is rooted in traditional values and which meets contemporary and future needs.
4. To teach respect for our American heritage, stressing the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.
5. To challenge students to strive for academic success.
6. To help students develop to the fullest, all of their gifts and talents.
7. To offer a broad range of extra-curricular activities which meet the needs and interests of the students.
8. To staff the school with competent certified teachers whose lives reflect Gospel teachings.
9. To administer the school in a spirit of service to teachers, students, parents and community.
10. To involve the parents in the development of school programs and policies.

## GENERAL PERSONNEL POLICIES

**Administration:** Full responsibility for the catechetical mission in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois belongs to the diocesan Bishop. Policies of the catechetical mission are enacted and thereby formalized by the diocesan Bishop. The Bishop of the diocese is the chief administrator of all parishes in the diocese. All clergy, paid staff, students, parents, volunteers, and certain contracted individuals and entities must adhere to the Policies and Procedures and the Administrative Handbook of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, which can be found on the diocesan website.

The Principal-Minister is the delegated administrative officer of the school and is responsible to the Routt Catholic High School Board of Directors for the effective operation of the school within the apostolic mission of the parish or sponsoring organization.

## HIRING AND ORIENTATION POLICIES

**Equal Employment Opportunity:** Routt Catholic High School shall assure equal employment opportunity in all its employment policies and practices in accord with Catholic Church teachings (please refer to Diocesan Policy Book Two: The People of God, Policy 600 Recruitment) and Policy 1300 EEO Statement and Non-harassment Policy) Entities in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois reserve the right to consider Catholic Church teachings in employment decisions. Applicants or employees whose behavior or lifestyle is in violation of Church teaching will not be considered for employment or will have their employment terminated.

Every effort shall be made to employ catechists who live and share the Catholic faith. Non-Catholic Teacher-Ministers may be employed only if they can support and cooperate with this effort. Persons teaching religion or theology must be “practicing Catholics who participate fully in the communal worship and life of the Church and who have been prepared for their apostolate by appropriate catechetical training.” As an integral part of the Catholic catechetical mission which seeks to integrate religious truths and values with the rest of life, most importantly by the presence of catechists who express an integrated approach to learning and living in their private and professional lives, prospective Teacher-Ministers shall be questioned whether or not they can support and cooperate with this effort.

**Hiring Process:** The hiring process shall not be complete without an official Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. Employment Application, whether or not a candidate has submitted a detailed résumé. No candidate for employment shall be hired for any position without having been properly interviewed at all appropriate levels. A candidate’s employment history, academic preparation and references shall be carefully checked prior to being offered a position.

Any individual who accepts a paid or volunteer position with a diocesan parish, Catholic school, or agency shall submit to a criminal background check. If any criminal background information is revealed for any new or current employee or volunteer, that information shall be referred to the Diocesan General Counsel for review and consultation with the Director of the Office for Human Resources. Information generated in connection with the process set forth shall be maintained in a confidential manner and shall only be disclosed in accordance with diocesan policy and applicable

state and federal law.

Contracts or agreements shall only be offered to qualified Teacher-Ministers and Principal-Ministers, or members of religious institutes, unless there are specific circumstances, such as a temporary need, to warrant a different agreement. All other employees are “at-will” and may obtain information regarding this status through the parish office or in diocesan policies. Any offer of employment is contingent upon the truthfulness and accuracy of information provided by the candidate during the application or interview process. An offer of employment shall be revoked if any falsification or omission of material facts is discovered. Furthermore, if such falsification or omission is discovered after a candidate has been hired, he or she shall be subject to immediate discharge as provided in diocesan policy.

Prior to hiring, the prospective applicant must sign the Certification and Authorization form that accompanies the Lay and Religious Employees and Volunteers Sexual Abuse of Minors: Policies for Education, Prevention, Assistance, and Procedures, for Determination of Fitness for Ministry, Employment or Volunteer Service and the Policy on Working with Minors which are provided by the diocesan Office for Safe Environment, and other papers as appropriate.

***Licensure Requirements (aside from Teacher-Ministers and Administrators):*** Each individual employed in a field requiring licensure (i.e. school psychologist, counselor, nurse, cook, etc.) holds a relevant license and practices within the scope of that license. This item does not apply to Teacher-Ministers or administrator licenses.

***Posting of Openings:*** Job postings will be communicated using various methods, such as the Parent communications, the local newspaper(s), the school’s Facebook, the parish bulletin, the school and/or parish website, the Diocesan Human Resources website, Illinois Job Banks, etc. All job positions that are posted must include a pay range and benefits summary for that specific position.

***Staff Health and Personnel Records:*** All personnel shall conform to current state laws regarding physical fitness and freedom from communicable disease and present evidence as required. In a school where preschool children are enrolled, all employees must present evidence of a TB test as required by state law.

All personnel shall submit to school administration all required documents for his or her personnel file and complete all safe environment requirements and required staff training as instructed. Evidence of completion will be kept in the individual’s personnel file.

***Pay Raises:*** All pay raises are at the discretion of the Routt Catholic High School Board of Directors. Factors that may affect pay raises are changes in financial circumstances of Routt Catholic High School, change in job position, and employee job performance.

The work week is typically that described below unless otherwise indicated by the Principal-Minister or the RCHS Board of Directors. Most teachers of Routt Catholic High School are scheduled to be in their classrooms Monday – Friday, 7:45 a.m. – 3:20 p.m with a 30 minute lunch.

### Non-Exempt (Hourly) Employees

To ensure Routt Catholic High School has complete and accurate time records and non-exempt employees are paid for all hours worked, non-exempt employees are required to record all working time using the designated time keeping application. Time must be recorded as follows:

- Immediately before starting a shift.
- Immediately after resuming work, before a meal period.
- Immediately before resuming work, after a meal period.
- Immediately after finishing work for the day.
- Immediately before and after any other time away from work.

Non-exempt employees should clock in no more than five minutes ahead of the start time and clock out no later than five minutes after quitting time. Time sheets and payroll are processed every other week; all time worked must be entered prior to payroll processing.

### Exempt Employees

Exempt employees are also required to have their time worked recorded. However, the timekeeping system will be programmed with the assumption that the exempt employee work 8 hours per day for a total of 40 hours per week. It is recognized that exempt employees receive a predetermined salary that is related not to the hours they spend at work, but rather, to the job responsibilities and requirements to be accomplished. The predetermined compensation cannot be reduced because of variations in the quality or quantity of the employee's work, nor can exempt employees receive overtime pay for hours worked over 40 in a work week. Exempt employees receive a flat salary for all or any portion of work performed in a work week.

Deductions of exempt employee's salary are permissible for the following: full-day absences for personal reasons, sickness, or vacation, offset amounts for jury pay, witness fees or military pay, disciplinary suspensions of one or more full days imposed in good faith for serious workplace conduct rule infractions, or absences under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Exempt employees are expected to review their time sheet weekly to ensure their time has been calculated appropriately. Any exempt employee is free to record time under the same process as a non-exempt employee.

## BENEFITS

***Paid Leave for All Workers Act:*** Effective January 1, 2024, the State of Illinois has mandated that all paid employees are to receive Paid Leave. Since Routt Catholic High School sick/personal day policy is greater or equal to the State's Paid leave Act, the first 40 hours of (sick/personal) time given to an employee is designated as paid leave each year for full-time employees, full-time as defined in Diocesan Policy Book Two: The People of God, Policy 500 Employment Relationships. Employees who are regular part-time employees, non-regular part-time employees, or temporary employees as defined in Diocesan Policy Book Two: The People of God, Policy 500 Employment Relationships will earn paid leave **at a rate of at least 1 hour for every 40 hours worked**. The maximum amount of paid leave under this Act that can be accrued is 40 hours in a year.

With the rate of 1 hour for every 40 hours worked, for example, if an employee is scheduled 7 hours a day for a week, they will receive 7 hours of vacation/personal /sick hours for the school year (7 hours times 36 weeks divided by 40 hours, rounded to 7 hours each year).

Paid leave under this Act may be used for any reason. Paid leave must be requested at least two weeks prior to the use of the time. However, if there is an emergency situation, notification at the time the paid leave is needed is allowed. An emergency situation is defined as anything within reason that is unforeseen and requires the employee to interrupt his or her normal work schedule, i.e. illness of self or child, illness of daycare provider, transportation issues, etc. Paid leave as defined above may be denied due to a conflict with time off requests of another employee in the Catholic school or when it has an impact on the operating needs of the Catholic school.

Paid leave under this Act may not be cashed out. When an employee leaves employment, for any reason, the balance of paid leave under this act will not be paid out unless defined as vacation time.

***Sick Days and Personal Days:*** The sick/personal leave policy for full time teachers/staff working an average of 30 hours or more a week during the school year are allowed eleven sick/ personal days (77 hours) each year, which includes the 40 hours of paid leave for all workers. These days are accumulative to 45 days, meaning that an employee can roll over up to 45 days of unused time into the next year. All staff members (working 11-plus months) accumulate to 60 days.

***Vacation Days:*** All full-time staff members (working 11-plus months) earn 10 days of vacation days, except for the Principal-Minister who earns 20 days of vacation days. Part-time, exempt staff members (working 11-plus months) earn 5 days of vacation days. If these days are not used during the fiscal year, then they do not roll over to the next year. Vacation days must be taken in at least ½ day increments. Part-time teachers are entitled to the time indicated above under Paid Leave for All Workers. Upon termination/resignation, unused days will be forfeited.

***Tuition Discount:*** Routt Catholic High School full-time employees (on average 30 hours or more per week) will receive a tuition discount to Routt Catholic High School or OSS in the amount of \$500 (per child) for the first three children paying tuition. Any part-time employee will qualify for a prorated tuition discount based on the number of class periods they are scheduled to work each day.

## PERFORMANCE, DISCIPLINE, AND TERMINATION

***Child Abuse and Sexual Abuse:*** All Church and Catholic school personnel and volunteers, as defined in BK3§101 shall certify to their understanding of the *Policy on Working with Minors* and the *Lay and Religious Employees and Volunteers Sexual Abuse of Minors: Policies for Education, Prevention, Assistance, and Procedures, for Determination of Fitness for Ministry, Employment or Volunteer Service* by signing the appropriate Certification and Authorization Document. All Church and Catholic school personnel and volunteers shall comply with Safe Environment policies in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

**Code of Professional Conduct (Faith's Law):** Routt Catholic High School located in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois will conduct business honestly and ethically at all times. We strive to improve the quality of our services provided to parishioners, students, and the greater community of the diocese and will maintain a reputation for honesty, fairness, respect, responsibility, integrity, trust, and sound moral and ethical judgment that reflect our faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church in conducting business. Our employees are expected to adhere to high standards of business and personal integrity as a representation of our parish and diocesan business practices, always consistent with their duty of loyalty to Routt Catholic High School and to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Every employee of the Diocese and diocesan agencies shall act in an honest and forthright manner in all workplace concerns; treat co-workers, supervisors, volunteers, parishioners, students, and visitors with respect; and conduct themselves in a moral and ethical manner consistent with Catholic principles. Every employee, as a representative of the Catholic Church to the faithful and to the outside world, has a ministerial calling. For this reason, every position has a ministerial aspect. Personnel must, therefore, conduct themselves in a way that does not contradict the doctrine and moral teaching of the Catholic Church.

We expect that employees of Routt Catholic High School will not knowingly misrepresent Routt Catholic High School and will not speak on behalf of Routt Catholic High School unless specifically authorized to do so. The confidentiality of proprietary information, and similar confidential and sensitive information (i.e. financial records and reports, or business strategies and plans, development, member, or donor lists) about Routt Catholic high School or operations, or that of Routt Catholic High School or members of Routt Catholic High School, is to be treated with discretion and only disseminated on a need-to-know basis.

Violation of the Code of Professional Conduct can result in discipline, up to and including termination of employment. The degree of discipline imposed may be influenced by the existence of voluntary disclosure of any ethical violation and whether or not the violator cooperated in any subsequent investigation.

To better understand the Standards of Conduct, please refer to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois [SPolicy 503: Standards of Conduct Book-II-503.Standards-of-Conduct.pdf \(dio.org\)](#)

**Sexual Misconduct:** Routt Catholic High School employees must follow the Illinois Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators. This provides a foundation for the responsibilities and commitments of educators within the State of Illinois. The following are the five core principles:

- Responsibility to Students
- Responsibility to Self
- Responsibility to Colleagues and the Profession
- Responsibility to Parents, Families and Communities
- Responsibility to the Illinois State Board of Education

The success of students in school relies on safe learning environments and healthy relationships with school personnel. It is important for staff to maintain a professional relationship with students at all times and to define staff-student boundaries to protect students from sexual misconduct by staff and staff from the appearance of impropriety. As bystanders, educators may have knowledge of concerning

behaviors that no one else is aware of, so they need to understand the definition of “sexual misconduct.”

Sexual misconduct means any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, by an employee or agent of the Catholic school with direct contact with a student that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Such an act includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- A sexual or romantic invitation.
- Dating or soliciting a date.
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog.
- Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student.
- Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature.
- A sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with the student.

“Grooming” as now defined in Section 11-25 of the Criminal Code is “when [a person] knowingly uses a computer on-line service, Internet service, local bulletin board service, or any other device capable of electronic data storage or transmission, performs an act in person or by conduct through a third party, or uses written communication to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice a child, a child’s guardian, or another person believed to be the person to be a child or a child’s guardian, to commit any sex offense as defined in Section 2 of the Sex Offender Registration Act, to distribute photographs depicting the sex organs of the child, or to otherwise engage in any unlawful sexual conduct with a child or with another person believed by the person to be a child. As used in this Section, ‘child’ means a person under 17 years of age.”

All employees at Routt Catholic High School must maintain professional relationships with students at all times and follow the expectations for staff-student boundaries. Employees must also follow the guidelines below:

- Employees are representatives of the Catholic school at all times and will maintain professional relationships with students at all times, recognizing the age and developmental level of the students served. This includes meeting with a student or contacting a student outside of the employee’s professional role.
- While the Catholic school does not provide transportation on a regular basis, special circumstances (i.e. field trips) create the need for private transportation for students. While it is preferred to utilize volunteer adult chaperones to provide transportation for students, sometimes employees are also needed to provide this service. Employees are to follow the same guidelines as volunteer chaperones when transporting students, and it is recommended that an employee refrains from transporting a single student, and rather has a group of students, unless an emergency arises. In this case, the employee should notify the school office of the transportation needs before leaving.
- In addition, employees will take particular care in taking or possessing a photo or a video of a student. Parents or guardians should first give permission for photos and videos to be taken by employees of the Catholic school. Photos and videos of students should serve an educational purpose, and the employee should only maintain those photos and videos for as long as the educational purpose requires. Once the purpose is met, the employee should no longer maintain the photos and videos.

All employees will receive required employee training that is related to child abuse and educator ethics that are applicable under State and federal law. Mandated reporters must notify DCFS **immediately** when a mandated reporter has reasonable cause to believe a child is an abused or neglected child under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/3), including reasonable cause to believe that a child was a victim of grooming as defined by 720 ILCS 5/11-25.

The Catholic school will comply with all sexual misconduct allegation notification requirements under Section 22-85 of the School Code. A violation of the employee code of professional conduct may subject an employee to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from employment. Failure of an employee to report a violation of the employee code of professional conduct policy by another employee may subject that employee to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from employment. 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(f).

If the report of sexual abuse involves Church Personnel as described in BK2§100 *Clerical Sexual Abuse of Minors: Policies for Education, Prevention, Assistance, and Determination of Fitness for Ministry*, the Principal-Minister and/or Teacher-Minister shall also report the incident or suspicion to the Facilitator as described in BK2§107.2 *Reporting Requirements* of the above-mentioned policy.

**Confidentiality:** Employees of the Diocese and diocesan agencies are not to disclose without proper authorization, or outside the normal execution of their job responsibilities, any confidential matters which come to their attention as a result of their employment with the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. Disclosure to anyone of such information without proper authorization, or outside the normal context of one's job, may be cause for disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

**Disciplinary Process:** A violation of the policies and procedures of Routt Catholic High School located in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois may result in disciplinary action, including demotion, transfer, leave without pay, or termination of employment. Routt Catholic High School encourages a system of progressive discipline depending on the type of prohibited conduct. However, Routt Catholic High School is not required to engage in progressive discipline and may discipline or terminate an employee who violates the standards of conduct, or where the quality or value of their work fails to meet expectations at any time. Again, any attempt at progressive discipline does not imply that your employment is anything other than on an “at-will” basis consistent with applicable law. Note that the specific terms of your employment relationship, including termination procedures, are governed by the laws of the state in which you are employed.

**Failure to Fulfill Contract:** The salaried employee who has signed a contract may not terminate employment during the term of the contract except by written mutual agreement of the Principal-Minister, and the employee. Documentation of same will be placed in the person’s personnel file.

**Gender Identity:** It is the policy of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois that all Catholic agencies, including parishes, Catholic schools, institutions, departments, or other entities, shall respect the biological sex with which a person is born and shall apply all policies and procedures in relation to that person according to that person’s biological sex at birth. Employees and volunteers are expected to live virtuous lives guided by Gospel values and the teaching of the Church. Employees and volunteers shall conduct themselves in accord with their biological sex at all times. Likewise, all

employees and volunteers shall perform their duties, and tailor their interactions with other persons, in accord with the Diocese's general policy concerning gender identity.

***Grievance and Conflict Resolution Procedures:*** The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois treats all employees and persons with dignity and respect, as being children of God and made in His image and likeness. To this end, employees should bring any problems, concerns, or grievances about the workplace to the attention of the appropriate school administrator. For more information about conflict resolution please refer to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois §Policy 1150: Employment Issues. Book-II-1150-Employment-Issues.pdf (dio.org)

***Harassment:*** The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois forbids all types of workplace harassment. Please refer to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois §Policy 1300: EEO Statement and Non-harassment Book-II-1300.EEO-Statement-and-Non-harassment.pdf (dio.org) or §Policy 600: Recruitment, 602.1 Equal Employment Opportunity. Book-II-600.Recruitment.pdf (dio.org). Per Public Act 101-0221, the school provides sexual harassment prevention training at least once a year to all employees.

***Loyalty:*** Loyalty to Routt Catholic High School is expected. A positive, supportive, and constructive relationship must exist among faculty and staff for the Catholic school to function at its fullest potential. A staff member who is dissatisfied over a matter is expected to discuss the matter with the person directly involved (see Grievance and Conflict Resolution). The Principal-Minister may be asked to serve as a mediator. Discussion of school matters outside the Catholic school setting is not appropriate.

***Mandated Reporting:*** According to the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, school Principal-Ministers and Teacher-Ministers are mandated to report suspicion of abuse or neglect to the Department of Children and Family Services. When a Teacher-Minister reports such suspicion to the Department of Child and Family Services, he or she shall inform the Principal-Minister of his or her report. If the report of sexual abuse involves Church Personnel as described in BK2§100 *Clerical Sexual Abuse of Minors: Policies for Education, Prevention, Assistance, and Determination of Fitness for Ministry*, the Principal-Minister and/or Teacher-Minister shall also report the incident or suspicion to the Facilitator as described in BK2§107.2 *Reporting Requirements* of the above-mentioned policy.

***Non-Tenure and Contract Renewal:*** The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois and all Catholic elementary and secondary schools do not have a policy of tenure for personnel in the catechetical mission of the diocese, therefore tenure shall not be granted at the local level. All personnel contracts must be annual contracts and do not imply automatic renewal.

***Performance Reviews:*** All paid personnel and their positions shall be evaluated annually. Catholic School personnel shall be supervised and evaluated by the Principal-Minister at least once each school year. The summative instrument by which Teacher-Minister supervision and evaluation shall take place will be defined by the Office for Catholic Schools. The results of an employee's evaluation shall be shared only with the respective employee. It is the policy of the Catholic school to appraise the progress, performance, ability, attitudes, and potential of each employee uniformly and objectively through this evaluation. This is done so that the employee, under the Principal-Minister's guidance, may develop plans and goals that will lead to professional growth and development. A positive job performance review does not guarantee a pay raise, promotion, or continued employment. Please refer

to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois §Policy 1150: Employment Issues. Book-II-1150-Employment-Issues.pdf (dio.org)

**Personal Appearance:** Routt Catholic High School employees represent the parish, Catholic school, and its ministry in their appearance as well as by their actions. Accordingly, the personal appearance of all employees is governed by the following standards:

Employees are expected to dress in a manner that is normally acceptable in the business environment and must also practice good grooming and personal hygiene. Hair and facial hair should be clean, combed, and neatly trimmed or arranged. Fragrant products, including but not limited to perfumes, colognes, and scented body lotions or hair products, should be used in moderation out of concern for others with sensitivities or allergies.

The wearing of the following items is not permitted:

- athletic clothing including dress shorts (unless approved by the Principal-Minister);
- baseball caps;
- clothing with slogans (unless they are school shirts or shirts that represent school events);
- tank tops;
- slacks, tops, dresses, skirts, etc. that are too tight, too sheer, or too revealing;
- torn, unkempt or excessively faded apparel or similar items that are not appropriate for a professional work environment.

Employees may direct any questions about the dress code to the administration of the Catholic school. Failure to comply with the personal appearance standards may result in being sent home to groom or change clothes. Frequent violations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

**Professionalism:** Staff members agree to serve the Catholic school in a professional manner and to act in accordance with the norms and dictates of the Roman Catholic Church. Staff must maintain a professional relationship with students and their parents. No improper actions or any type of impropriety is acceptable and may be cause for dismissal. Each staff member further agrees to perform all duties reasonably assigned to him or her by the parish. Staff acknowledge that not following such policies, and directives and/or engaging in conduct prohibited by the Roman Catholic Church, and/or living a lifestyle inconsistent with the Roman Catholic Church doctrine, whether occurring during or outside the workday or whether occurring on or off the Catholic school premises, may result in adverse employment action, including immediate termination. At all times staff shall act in compliance with their contracts (if applicable) and the Human Resource Manual. Failure to do so is cause for termination.

**Resignation:** In order to provide quality service on a continuous basis, it is beneficial for the Catholic school to obtain prior knowledge of the employee's desire to resign. Staff members must submit written notice of their intentions to resign, and employees are encouraged to submit a notice of resignation as far in advance as possible in order to facilitate the replacement process. The desired amount of notice is a minimum of two weeks for noncontractual staff. Contractual staff should refer to the Failure to Fulfill Contract section of this handbook.

**Termination:** If it becomes apparent that a catechist's performance does not meet the religious or professional standards required, every care must be taken by the appropriate supervising catechetical administrator to document his or her deficiencies and to ensure the catechist is treated with fairness. The catechist shall be told of the problem and given an opportunity to discuss the problem and to improve or change within a specified time frame.

Grounds for dismissal during the contractual year or not offering a new contract for a subsequent year must be in accord with established diocesan and local policies and current contract obligations after appropriate evaluations. Reasons for dismissal during the year or not offering a new contract for a subsequent year, include, but are not to be limited to:

- Violation of accepted academic or professional standards of conduct
- Failure to perform duties in a satisfactory manner
- Lack of continuing professional growth and performance
- Consistent non-observance of diocesan and local policies
- Violation of other provisions of the catechist's contract
- Failure to act in accordance with or advocating positions contrary to the doctrinal and moral teachings of the Catholic Church
- Failure to provide leadership in forming the Christian catechetical community
- Gross misconduct

## BUILDING OPERATIONS

**Attendance, Arrival and Departure Times:** An employee is to be at work on time as scheduled per their schedule. If an employee is sick or is going to be delayed in reporting to work, he or she is responsible for contacting the principal by 6:00 a.m. See Substitute Teacher for procedures. The employee may be required to provide documentation of any medical or other excuse for being absent or late. Continued, unaccountable and unnecessary tardiness or absence from work may result in disciplinary actions, not excluding termination from employment.

Routt Catholic High School reserves the right to apply unused vacation, sick time, or other paid time off to unauthorized absences. Absences resulting from approved leave, personal, sick, vacation, or legal requirements are exceptions to the policy.

**Business Closure and Emergencies:** Should there be no school because of snow, etc., the local radio stations/TV stations will broadcast that information. We will also use our TeacherEase Parent Communication System to get needed messages to faculty/staff, parents, and students.

If an early dismissal occurs during the school day, TeacherEase Parent Communication System will be used to notify parents of any changes in the school day. Teachers will remain with students until they have been dismissed.

**Maintenance and IT Requests:** Faculty and staff are issued technology devices based on job requirements. Faculty/staff are responsible for their school-issued devices. Should a device be lost,

damaged (outside of normal wear and tear), the employee is financially responsible for the cost to repair/purchase a new device.

Building maintenance requests are sent via email to the Principal-Minister with a copy to the Administrative Assistant. IT requests are sent to mmartin@routtcatholic.com for proper work request.

***Internet Usage Policy Including Email and Social Media:*** All students, Teacher-Ministers, and staff are bound to the Diocesan Information Technology, Electronic Communications, and Social Media Policies in addition to all school policies. These policies are available online through the diocesan website, and all staff must review these policies at least annually. See these full policies as well as Book 5 - The Temporal Goods of the Church (Administrative, Financial, and Legal), Policy 4500 Electronic Communication Policies.

Students, faculty, and staff are responsible for good behavior and conduct while using the Internet or e-mail (see student and family handbook). Failure to follow the rules of good conduct and behavior will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of access to the computer system or dismissal from school or employment. The system administrator will review Internet activity, files and communication stored on the network or a stand-alone computer system on the school property to maintain integrity and to ensure that students, faculty, and staff are using the system responsibly. The system administrator reserves the right to check any files or communications and Internet activity at any time.

**Student Illness Procedures:** If a student is feeling ill, the teacher should call the office. (If necessary, another student should accompany the ill student to the office.) The office staff will evaluate the student. Either the office staff will allow the student to return to class or the student's parent or guardian will be contacted. If the child is going home, the child will be temporarily cared for in the school office until the parent or guardian arrives to take the student from school. In the event of an emergency, the school will follow the parent or guardian instructions on the student's emergency form kept in the school office.

## INSTRUCTIONAL DUTIES

***Catholic Instruction:*** Routt Catholic High School is deeply committed to helping students see and understand the ways in which faith and reason complement and reinforce one another in the life of the virtuous man or woman. This motivation animates our rigorous academic curriculum and is at the heart of our earnest efforts to shape the character and cultivate the spiritual life of our students. For this reason, Routt Catholic High School provides regular activities and lessons focused on worship and praise of God, spiritual reflection, catechesis, and service to the wider parish and regional community. The primary goal of the program of instruction in the Catholic schools of the diocese shall be to provide those learning experiences which are suitable and appropriate for developing the values, attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary for the student's moral, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development.

Each Catholic school in the diocese must provide daily instruction in the Catholic faith for every student. In accord with the Christian philosophy and goals of the Catholic schools, religion classes and courses in Christian family living are essential and integral components of the curriculum and shall be aligned with the Roman Catholic Church in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. Liturgical celebrations (especially Mass and Reconciliation), in accord with approved liturgical norms, and service opportunities shall be an integral part of the catechetical program, and all students and staff members shall participate as appropriate.

***Lesson Plans and Curriculum:*** The Teacher-Minister's daily lesson plan for every subject (learning objective, instructional strategies and means of assessment) shall be carefully recorded prior to the week of the instruction. Such a record will be regularly reviewed by the Principal-Minister or his or her delegate to ensure that the instruction offered meets both the individual needs of the students served and the stated curriculum requirements.

Curriculum changes or added course offerings originate with the individual department. The department/teacher brings to the administration the recommended change for approval. **The teacher is required to submit a course syllabus and curriculum map of each course assigned to him/her.**

***Parent Communications:*** The school works with parents and guardians for the education of students. Teacher-Ministers are obligated to share information about educational objectives and expectations with parents on a regular basis. When a parent contacts a Teacher-Minister and requests information, every effort should be made to provide the information by the next school day or provide a time frame for when the parent can expect the information.

Teacher-Ministers should provide written information that is sent home the first week of school that includes information about curriculum, instruction, homework, grading policy and activities for the grade level or subject taught. Teacher-Ministers will provide parent or guardian communication on a weekly or monthly basis, as needed. A paper copy will be sent to parents who do not have internet access.

All parent and guardian communication must be professional in nature. Teacher-Ministers will spell check and proofread documents that are sent home. A copy of these documents should also be shared with the Principal-Minister.

***Parent Conferences:*** Parent and teacher conferences are scheduled annually. Teacher-Ministers should keep track of conference attendance and document any necessary information. Teacher-Ministers should be prepared to share insights and documentation of each child's progress. Every effort should be made to meet face-to-face with every family. Alternate dates and times should be offered if the parent or guardian is not available at the scheduled date and time. Teacher-Ministers should continue to maintain communication with parents throughout the school year and may set up additional conferences with parents, by phone or in person, as needed.

***Record-Keeping and Grading:*** Teacher-Ministers are required to keep records of students' progress through a variety of assessments, which could include evaluation of homework assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, classroom participation, etc. Teacher-Ministers will report on

students' progress through TeacherEase, progress reports, conferences, and report cards. TeacherEase should be updated each week by the end of the day on Thursday with grades for normal assignments and assessments. Teacher-Ministers will follow the grading scale as outlined in the student handbook.

Teacher-Ministers should make every effort to contact parents or guardians and as soon as a concern arises. Teacher-Ministers should document each contact on TeacherEase. Teacher-Ministers should encourage parents and guardians to contact them as soon as a concern arises.

Grades must be recorded in TeacherEase by the deadline for each report card period. Teacher-Ministers are responsible for student progress report sheets and permanent records at the end of each year as directed by the school administration.

***Selection of Educational Materials:*** The selection of instructional materials for the classroom is a very important process. Quality materials may be ineffective if used at the wrong time or in the wrong way. A Teacher-Minister should consider the following questions when considering instructional materials:

1. What are the specific concepts that are being presented?
2. What is the context of the presentation and how does it incorporate the Catholic faith?
3. Is the material relevant to the subject being taught?
4. Is the material appropriate for the age and experience of the students?
5. Is administrative approval required for the material?
6. Will the presentation of the material allow for the expression of a variety of views?
7. Can a positive reaction be expected from the students and parents?

It is not always possible to arrive at complete agreement on the selection of instructional materials. Parents are urged to contact individual Teacher-Ministers when there is a legitimate question as to why a certain material is being used. If an agreement regarding the use of the material cannot be reached, parents and Teacher-Ministers may explore alternatives for individual students. Teacher-Ministers are expected to have a thorough knowledge of any instructional materials that they use in their classroom. The excellent quality of particular materials does not excuse the Teacher-Minister from the responsibility of thorough preparation.

***Substitute Teachers:*** Seating charts, class lists, and appropriate lesson plans should be available for the substitute teacher. The substitute folder will have a list of phone numbers on who to call. Lesson plans will be on the teacher's desk (if pre-arranged) or if unplanned, the teacher will send plans to the Principal-Minister or Administrative Assistant which will place the plans in the substitute folder.

For pre-arranged absences, teachers need to notify the Administrative Assistant who will work to schedule a substitute teacher. For unplanned absences, the teacher calls the Principal-Minister to arrange a substitute. See Attendance, Arrival and Departure.

***Supervision of Students:*** The school administrator shall be responsible for ensuring adequate supervision of students during the entire time they are in the care of the Catholic school. All staff and Teacher-Ministers share this responsibility with the school administrator. A student shall not be

asked nor allowed to leave the premises, e.g. for field trips or errands, without parental or legal guardian authorization.

### ***Specific Instructional Duties for Routt Catholic High School:***

**Class Schedules:** The school day is divided into eight teaching periods in addition to the lunch period. A master copy of the schedule will be given to the teachers at the faculty workshop prior to the beginning of the school year. Students are assigned to their courses by the guidance counselor. Any transfer of a student from one course to another, or one class to another, is done solely by the guidance department with approval from the principal.

**Classroom Regulations:** Teachers are expected to be in their classrooms at least ten minutes before their first class begins. Each teacher needs to monitor the halls between class periods. Teachers are to be available until 3:20 to help students or meet with parents. The normal eight hour school day will run from 7:45 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Teachers are asked to

- Dismiss classes promptly. If a teacher detains a student after class, a written excuse will be provided for the student's next class.
- Issue a hall pass by signing the Student Planner. Issue a written pass to meet with the guidance counselor.
- Keep students in the classroom or gym for the duration of the class period.
- Design lessons that will keep students working for the entire period.
- Make the classroom an attractive and creative learning environment.
- Request repairs through the office rather than through the maintenance person.

Teachers are expected to take care of all equipment under their care and to cultivate in the students proper respect for the property of others. Chairs and desks should be checked regularly for marks or writing and should be cleaned by the students under the teacher's direction. Major problems of defacing should be reported to the office.

Most of the teachers have their own rooms and are responsible for their good care. The teacher who occupies the room the last period of the day is responsible for making sure the room is left in good order.

**Classroom parties:** No food is ever to be taken to the classrooms. If a special party has been approved by the Principal, it must be held in the Martha Routt Room.

**Recording of Student Attendance:** Teachers are to record absences and tardies (marked excused or unexcused.) **each period.** A master record is maintained in the office via TeacherEase. The decision as to whether an absence/tardy is excused or unexcused is based on the policies found in the student handbook and is determined by the principal.

## NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DUTIES

**Attendance at Meetings and Conferences:** All teachers are required to attend faculty meetings/in-services that are listed on the calendar as well as the diocesan institutes unless other arrangements with the principal have been agreed to or made. Each teacher will participate in Retreat Day, Diocesan Regional Meetings, and the Diocesan Adult Education Conference, in the year in which it occurs.

Staff members are expected to attend the annual trainings specified by the principal. If attendance is required at a meeting during the year, notification to attend will be given to the staff members.

**Crisis Management Plan:** Routt Catholic High School maintains a crisis management plan. All personnel are expected to review the plan frequently and follow the procedures outlined in the plan should a crisis occur or during any school drills.

**Extra-Curricular Activities:** School-sponsored extracurricular activities shall be guided by the general curriculum goals of the Catholic school and should in no way detract from the academic and religious goals of the school. Faculty and staff members are expected to support, organize, and assist with co-curricular and extracurricular activities. These are activities that are provided outside of the regular curriculum or classroom. These activities help provide a well-rounded educational experience for the students. Activities include, but are not limited to, athletics, service organizations, music programs, specific clubs, etc.

No coach/sponsor may promote a school-sponsored activity without first consulting the principal. This includes fund raising activities. Coach and sponsor are urged to meet and outline respective responsibilities for school activities.

No student is allowed in the building without adult supervision. The coach/sponsor is responsible for such supervision and for seeing that all doors are locked and all lights turned off following an activity. In order to coordinate the year's activities, coach/sponsor will be asked in the spring to submit a calendar of events for the next school year.

**Extra Duties:** Employees may be required to supervise students outside of the instructional time in the classroom, including assemblies, in study hall, or other times designated. Employees should follow the guidelines for behavior expectations for students in these areas, if provided, or the behavior guidelines for students in the regular classroom setting, if special expectations are not provided.

**Field Trip Policies and Procedures:** The school administration shall authorize only those field trips that are appropriate educational or catechetical experiences. All Catholic school and diocesan policies are in effect during participation in and transportation to and from all field trip activities. Participants shall treat all field trip locations as though they are on Catholic school grounds. Furthermore, children, adolescents, and accompanying adults attending field trips or other parish sponsored trips shall be informed that participation in such events requires that they adhere to a code of behavior. This code of behavior, which applies to both minors and accompanying adults attending said functions, is as follows:

1. Each person will respect his or her individual dignity, self-worth, and value in God's eyes.
2. Each person will respect the dignity, self-worth, and value in God's eyes of other persons.
3. Each person will respect the physical property and possessions of other persons and institutions.
4. Each person has a duty to report violations of the conduct code.

On field trips there shall be an adequate number of adult chaperones (age 21 or older) for students, and all chaperones must abide by the Policy on Working with Minors for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. An acceptable ratio of chaperones is 1 adult (age 21 or older) for every 8 students, but the number of chaperones depends on the age of the children and the nature of the event.

It is understood that the students pay all the fees for the trip. Teachers are encouraged to keep costs at a minimum. Signed parental permission slips must be returned to the teacher before the trip and these must be in the possession of the teacher on the trip. The blank permission slip form may be obtained from the office.

### ***Specific Non-Instructional Duties to Routt Catholic High School:***

**Guidance Program:** Guidance is an overall term that includes career and personal counseling. The guidance counselor shall be responsible for the following:

1. Standardized testing
2. Educational/Occupational information
3. Individual counseling
4. Placement: Grouping and curriculum choices
5. Follow-up and research
6. Orientation of new students
7. Working with parents and community agencies
8. Group counseling
9. Referrals
10. Arranging for tutoring
11. Meeting with college representatives

The guidance counselor will provide a student with a pass one (1) day in advance should he/she need to meet with the student during class time. Teachers should make referrals if it is evident that a student requires personal or academic counseling. Generally speaking, all conferences with the guidance staff are confidential. Every student has the right to meet with the counselor and the obligation to be excused from class before the conference.

**Online Social Networking:** All Routt Catholic High School employees should consider the following with respect to:

1. **STUDENTS:** All RCHS employees should not "friend" and/or accept requests from current students to post anything on a social site of a current student. Each School employee needs to respect the special aspect of the teacher-student relationship and hold such in high regard.
2. **PARENTS:** Use caution when "friending" current parents. The School expects each faculty member to maintain a professional relationship with parents. By avoiding social networking and similar sites,

this helps to control access to personal information, avoid questions about the nature of the relationships and maintain the professionalism of faculty with each parent.

3. **ALUMNI:** It is allowable for RCHS employees to accept social network friend requests from alumni over the age of 18. However, it is best not to initiate friend contacts with alumni. Understand that the uneven power dynamics of the school, in which adults have authority over former students, might continue to shape those relationships. Consider that recent alumni are in some ways similar to current students because of proximity and age and because they likely perceive faculty and staff as authority figures.

4. **OTHER FRIENDS:** Monitor all postings to your network. Be judicious in your postings to all friends' sites and act immediately to remove any material that may be inappropriate from your site whether posted by you or someone else.

5. **PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS:** Social network sites should never be used for communication with students and parents regarding confidential or school-related or professional information.

6. **UNFRIENDING:** RCHS employees should immediately "unfriend" any students who are friends on Facebook or any other social network. Feel free to use the school's policy as justification for "unfriending" any parents, community members or alumni if you feel that their being on your social network page poses a conflict of interest.

7. **PRIVACY:** Recognize that there is no such thing as complete privacy on a social networking site. Take care in anything you post online. Keep privacy settings at appropriate levels to protect yourself.

8. **APPLICATION OF SCHOOL POLICIES:** All policies of RCHS, including those referenced in this Handbook, shall apply to employee's conduct on social networking sites.

**Study Hall Policies and Procedures:** The following regulations have been established to protect the right of each student to a quiet atmosphere in the regular study hall.

1. Study halls will maintain a quiet study environment. Tutoring is to be arranged through the guidance office, principal, or regular classroom teacher. If two students are working together in a cooperative study group or peer tutoring, the study hall monitor should receive information regarding the study group from the classroom teacher.

2. Any classroom teacher may write a pass to allow students to study together and/or "peer teach" material in their subject area during a study hall. Such peer studying will be limited to 2-student groups and will be conducted in a quiet manner that does not disturb the study environment of the study hall. The study hall teacher may determine that students are not working in a constructive manner and void that pass at his/her discretion.

3. No student cell phones are allowed in study hall. (Teacher directed background music may be allowed.)

4. Students who need to take a test in study hall will sit next to the teacher's desk.

## STUDENT CARE & DISCIPLINE

***Conflict Resolution for Students:*** The faculty, administration, and Catholic school counselor teach and support peaceful and non-violent conflict resolution. Students are not to utilize violent, threatening, or bullying behaviors to resolve conflicts. If a conflict arises, the faculty and administration will handle the situation as appropriate, utilizing the necessary conflict resolution skills. The Catholic school counselor may also assist with situations as appropriate. Parent or guardian contact will be made as necessary.

**Corporal Punishment:** Persons shall neither employ corporal punishment nor inflict physical abuse with respect to those entrusted to their care.

**Firearms, Drugs, Battery, and Student Information Reporting System:** Routt Catholic High School will report any qualifying incident to the appropriate authorities within a timely manner. The chief school administrator shall immediately notify local law enforcement officials of written complaints from school personnel concerning instances of battery committed against school personnel, and the chief school administrator shall notify the Illinois State Police within 3 days of each incident of battery through the School Incident Reporting System (SIRS).

The chief school administrator shall immediately notify a local law enforcement agency of firearm incidents on school grounds. If a student is in possession of a firearm, then the school administrator shall also immediately notify the student's parent or guardian. The chief school administrator shall immediately notify a local law enforcement agency of verified incidents involving drugs occurring on school grounds. Both types of incidents will also be reported to the Illinois State Police through the School Incident Reporting System (SIRS).

**Student Discipline:** All persons in the employ of or working on behalf of the Catholic school and parish shall:

- Respect the dignity of the student at all times—avoid personal indignities such as striking, pulling hair or ears, sarcasm, ridicule, nagging, name-calling and public humiliation
- Provide a classroom that is conducive to learning—order and discipline are an outgrowth of good teaching
- Deal with individual student discipline problems—avoid indiscriminate punishment of all in the class for the misconduct of one or some student(s)
- Help the student to see clearly the consequences of various behaviors and to realize that choosing certain behaviors means accepting the responsibility for the consequences of these behaviors—the consequences should always be logical and appropriate to the behavior
- At the beginning of the year make clear to students and parents or legal guardian the catechetical program and classroom regulations and procedures, as well as the consequences of violating these regulations and procedures—the consequences of violating regulations should always fit the offense

Discipline will first be handled by the classroom Teacher-Minister. More serious discipline problems will be referred to the school administration.

**Student Grievance Procedures:** Complaints from students, parents, and other legitimate sources about the operation of the Catholic school will be treated courteously (anonymous complaints will not be addressed). In order to help a parent or student resolve a grievance with a Teacher-Minister, administrator, or the school in general, and to do so in an effective, efficient manner with mutual consultation, it has been established that the following order of people are those to whom the grievance should be brought: 1. The Teacher-Minister involved; 2. The Catholic school Principal-Minister. In fairness to both parties, the Principal-Minister will meet with all parties involved, document the grievance or complaint, document the answer to the grievance or complaint, document the agreement reached or not reached, and read the report to both parties. If the grievance is not

satisfactorily resolved at one level, either party may appeal to the next level, as listed above. The Principal-Minister's decision will be binding and final on all concerned.

***Student Search and Seizure:*** In order to maintain order, safety and security in schools, Catholic school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School authorities" includes school liaison police officers.

***School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students:*** School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there. The building Principal-Minister may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other Catholic school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

***Student Searches:*** Catholic school authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (such as purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the Catholic school's student rules and policies. The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to the objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.

Catholic school officials may require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates the Catholic school's disciplinary rules or diocesan policy. In the course of the investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order for the Catholic school to make a factual determination. Catholic school officials may not request or require a student or his or her parent or guardian to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website.

***Seizure of Property:*** If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the Catholic school's policies or rules, evidence may be seized and impounded by Catholic school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

***Student Wellbeing Reporting Protocol:*** In keeping with our Catholic mission to educate the whole child – mind, body, and spirit – faculty are responsible for identifying and reporting concerns related to student wellbeing, including spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and social health. All faculty and staff are mandatory reporters for student safety concerns and are expected to act promptly when concerns arise. When in doubt, report. Protecting student wellbeing is a shared moral and legal responsibility.

In alignment with Catholic values, all actions must reflect:

- Dignity of the human person
- Compassion and respect
- Commitment to student safety and holistic development

**Information to Report:** Faculty must report any observable or disclosed concerns, including but not limited to:

- **Spiritual:** significant distress impacting participation in faith life concerns affecting wellbeing
- **Physical:** injuries, signs of neglect, hygiene concerns, suspected abuse
- **Mental/Emotional:** anxiety, panic, depression, withdrawal, excessive crying, or significant behavioral changes
- **Safety Risks:** threats of self-harm, harm to others, abuse, or neglect
- **Social:** bullying, isolation, peer conflict, concerning online behavior

**Immediate Safety Concerns (URGENT) :**

If a student is in immediate danger (ex. suicidal thoughts, abuse disclosure, serious injury):

- Do not leave the student alone
- Notify the Principal immediately
- Contact emergency services (911) if directed by administration
- Follow all state-mandated reporting laws without delay

**Standard Reporting Procedure (Non-Urgent Concerns)**

*1.Document Observations*

- Record objective facts (date, time, behaviors, statements)
- Avoid interpretation or diagnosis

*2.Submit Report*

- Notify Principal and School Counselor
- Use designated school reporting form within 24 hours

*3.Maintain Confidentiality*

- Share information only with appropriate personnel
- Do not discuss with other staff, students, or parents unless directed

*4.Support*

- Maintain normal classroom interactions
- Do not investigate or attempt to resolve independently

**Mandated Reporting Compliance:** All staff must comply with state child abuse and neglect reporting laws. When required:

- Reports must be made directly to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
- Internal reporting does not replace legal reporting obligations
- Administration will support, but cannot prevent, a mandated report

**Documentation & Recordkeeping**

- All reports must be submitted through approved channels

- Records are maintained in accordance with student privacy laws (e.g., Family Educational
- Rights and Privacy Act)
- Access is limited to authorized personnel only

#### Parent Communication

- Communication with parents/guardians will be handled by administration
- Staff should not contact parents independently regarding sensitive wellbeing concerns unless
- directed

#### Follow-Up

- Administration and/or counselor will determine next steps
- Faculty may be asked to provide additional observations
- Updates will be shared on a need-to-know basis only

## Faculty and Staff Handbook Acknowledgement and Pledge

Name of Staff Member: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Faculty and Staff Acknowledgement***

By signing below, I acknowledge receiving and/or being provided electronic access to the *Faculty and Staff Handbook*, the *Student and Family Handbook*, and Diocesan policies and Administrative Handbook for employees of Routt Catholic High School in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois and that I have read it, understand it, and agree to comply with it. I understand that Routt Catholic High School has the maximum discretion permitted by law to interpret, administer, change, modify, or delete the rules, regulations, procedures, and benefits contained in the handbook at any time with or without notice. No statement or representation by the Principal-Minister, or any other employee, whether oral or written, can supplement or modify this handbook. Changes can only be made if approved in writing by the Principal-Minister and Board of Directors. I also understand that any delay or failure by the Routt Catholic High School to enforce any rule, regulation, or procedure contained in the handbook does not constitute a waiver on behalf of Routt Catholic High School or effect the right of the Routt Catholic High School to enforce such rule, regulation, or procedure in the future.

I understand that neither this handbook nor any other communication by a management representative or other individual, whether oral or written, is intended in any way to create a contract of employment. I further understand that, unless I have a written employment agreement signed by the Principal-Minister, I am employed "at-will" (to the extent permitted by law) and this handbook does not modify my "at-will" employment status.

I understand that this handbook refers to current benefit plans maintained by Routt Catholic High School and that employees must refer to the actual plan documents and summary plan documents as these plans are controlling.

If I am covered by a written employment agreement (signed by the Principal-Minister), that conflicts with the terms of this handbook, I understand that the terms of the employment agreement are determinative.

This handbook supersedes any previous handbook or policy statements, whether written or oral, issued by Routt Catholic High School

If I have any questions about the content or interpretation of this handbook, I will contact the Principal-Minister. I understand that my failure to return this acknowledgement will not relieve me from being responsible for knowing or complying with Catholic School and Diocesan rules, policies, and procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty or Staff Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date