

# **Piqua Catholic School Wellness Policy**

June, 2017

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## Preamble

Piqua Catholic School (hereto referred to as the School) is committed to the optimal development of every student. The School 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.

This policy outlines the School'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 School 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 during and after school;
- School engages 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 School in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and
- The School 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 and staff in the School. Specific measureable goals and outcomes are identified within each section below.

## **I. School Wellness Committee**

### ***Committee Role and Membership***

The School will convene a representative School Wellness Committee (hereto referred to as the SWC) 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 School-level wellness policy (heretofore referred as “wellness policy”).

The SWC membership will include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program (e.g., Cafeteria Manager); physical education teacher; health education teacher; school health services staff [e.g., nurse and other allied health personnel who provide school health services]; mental health and social services staff [e.g., school counselors]; school administrator (e.g., principal), school board

members; and the general public. To the extent possible, the SWC will reflect the diversity of the community.

### ***Leadership***

The Principal or designee(s) will convene the SWC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure the school's compliance with the policy.

The designated official for oversight is Georgia Hertenstein, Principal, 937-773-1564, [hertensteing@piquacatholic.org](mailto:hertensteing@piquacatholic.org).

The School will designate a school wellness policy coordinator, who will ensure compliance with the policy.

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

### ***Implementation Plan***

The School 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; 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. The school will 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: <https://piquacatholic.org/>.

### ***Recordkeeping***

The School will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy in the main office, room # 100, at Piqua Catholic School and/or on Piqua Catholic School's main server. Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public;
- Documentation of efforts to review and update the Local Schools Wellness Policy; including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the School uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the SWC;
- Documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements;
- The most recent assessment on the implementation of the local school wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the Local School Wellness Policy has been made available to the public.

### ***Annual Notification of Policy***

The School will actively inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status. The School will make this information available via the School website and/or School-wide communications. The School will provide as much information as possible about the school nutrition environment. This will include a summary of the school's events or activities related to wellness policy implementation. Annually, the School will also publicize the name and contact information of the school officials leading and coordinating the committee, as well as information on how the public can get involved with the school wellness committee.

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

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

- The extent to which the School is in compliance with the wellness policy;
- The extent to which the School'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 School's wellness policy.

The person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is Therese Roush, LPN, School Health Aide, rousht@piquacatholic.org.

The SWC, in collaboration with the school, will monitor the school's 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 SWC will update or modify the wellness policy based on the results of the annual School Health Index and triennial assessments and/or as School 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 School is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. The School will actively communicate ways in which representatives of SWC and others can participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of means appropriate for the School. The School will also inform parents of the availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. The School will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the School'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 School will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the

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

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

### **III. Nutrition**

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

Piqua Catholic School is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams *trans* fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal program aims 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.

The School participates in the USDA's National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Piqua Catholic School is committed to offering school meals through the NSLP program 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 School offers reimbursable school meals that meet [USDA nutrition standards](#).)
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices using [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#):

#### ***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 the school campus. The School will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

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

The School is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus during the school day support healthy eating. Foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal program (e.g., "competitive" foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. 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, as well as a Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools 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.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org](http://www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org).

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.

### ***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 School will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas. Healthy party ideas are available from the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) and from the [USDA](#).
2. Classroom snacks brought by parents. The School will provide to parents a [list of foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards.
3. Rewards and incentives. The School 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.

### ***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 School will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas.

### ***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 classrooms, the gymnasium, and cafeteria. 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, teachers, parents, students and the community.

The School 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 the following [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#):

- A fruit taste test is offered at least once a year.
  - Vegetables are offered on all service lines.
  - When cut, raw vegetables, are offered, they are paired with a low-fat dip such as ranch, hummus, or salsa
  - A vegetable taste test is offered at least once a year.
  - White milk is offered in all beverage coolers.
  - Cafeteria staff smile and greet students upon entering the service line and throughout meal service.
  - Attractive, healthful food posters are displayed in dining and service areas.
  - Cleaning supplies or broken/unused equipment are not visible during meal service.
  - Recycling and trash cans are at least 5 feet away from dining students.
  - There is a clear traffic pattern. Signs are used when appropriate.
  - Trash cans are emptied when full.
  - Students, teachers, or administrators announce today's menu in daily announcements.
  - A monthly menu is posted in the main office.
  - A monthly menu is provided to students, families, teachers, and administrators.
  - Nutrition education is incorporated into the school day.
  - Students are engaged in growing food (for example, gardening, seed planting, farm tours, etc.).
- Ensuring 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Additional promotion techniques that the School and individual schools may use are available at <http://www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org/>.

### ***Nutrition Education***

The School will teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating by all students. The School 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;
- Includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant and participatory activities, such as farm visits and school gardens;
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products and healthy food preparation methods;
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);
- Links with the school meal program, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, other school foods and nutrition-related community services

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

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

- Relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention
- Food guidance from [MyPlate](#)
- Eating a variety of foods every day
- Balancing food intake and physical activity
- Eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grain products

- Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars
- Eating more calcium-rich foods
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Food safety
- Importance of water consumption
- Importance of eating breakfast
- Eating disorders

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

The School 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 School 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 School property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information the School is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of the School 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 School'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 and beverage marketing is defined as advertising and other promotions in schools. Food and beverage marketing often includes 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.<sup>1</sup> 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, School will replace/update scoreboards or other durable equipment when existing contracts are up for renewal or to the extent that is financially possible over time so that items are in 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 School.
- 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.



As the School/school nutrition services/Athletic Department/PTA/PTO reviews existing contracts and considers new contracts, equipment and product purchasing (and replacement) decisions should reflect the applicable marketing guidelines established by the School Wellness Policy.

#### **IV. Physical Activity**

Children and adolescents should participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive school physical activity program (CSPAP). A CSPAP reflects strong coordination and synergy across all of the components: quality physical education as the foundation; physical activity during and after school; staff involvement and family and community engagement and the School is committed to providing these opportunities. The School will ensure that these varied physical activity opportunities are in addition to, and not a substitute for, physical education (addressed in "Physical Education" subsection). The School 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, classroom physical activity breaks or physical education) **will not be withheld** as punishment for any reason. The School will provide teachers and other school staff with a [list of ideas](#) for alternative ways to discipline students.

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

##### ***Physical Education***

The School 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). The curriculum will support the essential components of physical education.

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

All students in each grade will receive physical education for at least 60-89 minutes per week throughout the school year.

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

Health education will be required in all grades. The School will require middle school students to take and pass at least one health education course. The School 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
- 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
- Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan
- Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids

### **Recess**

Piqua Catholic Elementary School will offer at least **20 minutes of recess** on all 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 School must conduct **indoor recess**, teachers and staff will follow the indoor recess guidelines that promote physical activity for students, to the extent practicable.

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.

### **Classroom Physical Activity Breaks**

The School 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 School recommends teachers provide short (3-5-minute) physical activity breaks to students during and between classroom time at least three days per week. These physical activity breaks will complement, not substitute, for physical education class, recess, and class transition periods.

### **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 School 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.

### ***After School Activities***

The School offers opportunities for students to participate in physical activity after the school day through a variety of methods. The School will encourage students to be physically active by offering intramural sports activities after school.

### ***Active Transport***

The School will support active transport to and from school, such as walking or biking. The School will encourage this behavior by engaging in the activities below; including but not limited to:

- Designate safe or preferred routes to school
- Promote activities such as participation in International Walk to School Week, National Walk and Bike to School Week
- Instruction on walking/bicycling safety provided to students
- Promote safe routes program to students, staff, and parents via newsletters, websites, local newspaper
- Use crosswalks on streets leading to school

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

The School will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, other food and beverage venues and physical activity facilities. The School 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.

The School is 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 School'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 SWC.

All school-sponsored wellness events will include physical activity and healthy eating opportunities when appropriate.

### ***Community Partnerships***

The School will enhance relationships with community partners (e.g., hospitals, local businesses) 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 Family Engagement***

The School 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 School will use electronic mechanisms (e.g., email or displaying notices on the School’s website), as well as non-electronic mechanisms, (e.g., 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 SWC will have a designee 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 designee will be appointed/selected annually by the SWC.

The School will implement strategies to support staff in actively promoting and modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors. Examples of strategies school will use include:

- cafeteria will offer salads at lunch for staff members
- Organize a 5K walk/run in conjunction with school’s Parent-Teacher Organization, “Cavaliers in Action,” to support school programs
- Offer an annual weight loss challenge for staff that includes distributing helpful nutrition information
- Encourage regular use of the school’s open gym, fitness room and weight/training equipment

The School 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.

*Glossary:*

**Extended School Day** – the time during, before and afterschool that includes activities such as clubs, intramural sports, band and choir practice, drama rehearsals and more.

**School Campus** - areas that are owned or leased by the school and used at any time for school-related activities, 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** – the time between midnight the night before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day.

**Triennial** – recurring every three years.

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