# SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY

**Revised August 2022**

Christ the King Catholic School is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects children’s health, well-being and the ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activities. The link between nutrition and learning is well documented. Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, physical and mental growth and lifelong health and well- being. The purpose of this policy is to offer students the tools and knowledge necessary to make healthy choices for their body.

# Component A: Nutritional Guidelines

**Food Service**

* Menus will meet the nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture
* School meals will follow good menu planning principles, which feature a variety of healthy choices that are tasty, attractive and of excellent quality
* Off-site catering and/or on-site food service programs will provide or post the nutrient breakdown of menus
* School will consider students needs in planning for a healthy school nutrition environment
* Once a year students and parents will complete surveys asking for input and feedback on menus

# Food Service Staff

* + The School food service staff will be properly qualified according to current professional standards and regularly participate in professional development activities
	+ The School food service program will follow all food safety guidelines
	+ Food staff members will receive HACCP(Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points) training

# Pleasant Eating Experiences

* + School personnel will assist all students in developing the healthy practice of washing hands before eating
	+ A pleasant eating area for students and staff with adequate time for unhurried eating should be provided
	+ A minimum 30-minute uninterrupted lunch period (including recess) should be scheduled
	+ Schools are encouraged to provide recess before lunch or at a different time than lunch
	+ The school will review tutoring, pep rallies, assemblies club/organization meetings, and other activities during lunch time
	+ The withholding of food as punishment for students is prohibited

# Component B: Nutrition Education

* + Nutritional education is addressed in the K-12 Health Curriculum standards of the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic schools and is to be integrated across the curricula
	+ Students in Kindergarten through grade 12 will receive nutrition education that teaches the skills needed to adopt healthy eating behaviors
	+ The school will provide nutritional information to parents that will encourage parents to provide safe and nutritious food for their children
	+ All School personnel will promote advertising of healthy food choices

# Component C: Physical Activity Physical Education

* + Sequential physical education curriculum consistent with Diocesan Curriculum Standards will be implemented
	+ Suggested class time for Physical Education is 150 minutes per week for elementary students (k-5th grade)
	+ Suggested class time for Physical Education is 225 minutes per week for middle (6th-8th Grade) and high school students will be offered Physical Education classes for the entire school year
	+ Physical Education classes should be that of a regular classroom teacher not to exceed l:35 teacher/student ratio
	+ A physical and social environment that is safe and enjoyable for all, including those not athletically gifted, must be provided
	+ All elementary and high school students must participate in physical education classes
	+ Physical education classes may not be withheld as punishment or for completion of assignments
	+ Students should be moderately to vigorously active at least 50% of the time while in PE class

# Physical Activity

* + The school will provide daily recess of at least 20 minutes per day. Transition between classes for grades 4-8 is considered recess time
	+ Classroom teachers will give students simple physical activity breaks during classroom hours
	+ Intramural programs and/or physical activity clubs that meet all students’ needs, especially those who are not athletically gifted, should be offered or made available
	+ After school childcare programs are to provide developmentally appropriate physical activity for participating children and reduce or eliminate watching TV or videos

# Component D: Other School-Based Activities

* + Food and beverages sold or served on school grounds or at school- sponsored events shall meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and other nutrition standard guidelines as set forth by the Arizona Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs. This includes:
		- ala carte offerings in the food service program
		- food and beverage choices in vending machines, snack bars, and school stores
		- food and beverages sold as part of school-sponsored fundraising activities
		- food and beverages served at student parties, celebrations, meetings and school snacks
* Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value as defined by 7 CFR 210.11(2) are prohibited from being served during the school day. Foods of minimal nutritional value as defined by USDA include carbonated beverages, water ices, chewing gum, hard candies, jellies and gums, marshmallow candies, fondant, licorice, spun candy, and candy coated popcorn.
* Celebrations should be limited to 3 per year (Christmas, Last day of School and one of the school’s choice) where Minimal Nutritional Value foods may be served

# Component E: Parents and Staff Involvement

* + Students will receive positive, motivating messages, both verbal and non- verbal about healthy eating and physical activity from all school personnel
* School staff is encouraged to use non-food rewards - Food as a reward for students’ accomplishments is to be used sparingly.
* Parental involvement in the child’s nutrition education is encouraged and welcomed
* Parents and the community are encouraged to institute and support physical activity programs

# Component F: Implementation and Evaluation

* The Wellness Policy will be distributed to students, parents, and staff and will be published in each school’s parent/student handbook by August, 2007 and then annually
* The principal or designee will ensure compliance with these guidelines in his/her school
* School food service staff will ensure compliance and report nutrition policies within school food service areas and to the school principal
* A Fall Improvement Plan will be submitted to the Catholic Schools Office by October 1st and an annual assessment report on the school’s implementation will be submitted to the Catholic School Office by May 30th

# A Commitment to Nutrition and Physical Activity

* The Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Schools Office will appoint a School Health Advisory Committee to address nutrition and physical activity issues. The Committee will develop and evaluate guidelines that support a healthy school and shall offer revisions to these guidelines as needed
* The Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Schools Office encourages school fundraisers to offer non-food items or healthy food choices
* The Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Schools Office encourages schools to establish a local Wellness Committee to offer support and education to faculty, staff, students, and parents

**Unpaid Meal Charge Policy**

Christ the King School recognizes the important link between proper nutrition and academic success. The purpose of this policy is to establish a procedure for serving meals when students do not have money to pay, preventing unpaid balances, and ensuring eligible children are certified for free and reduced-price school meals.

**Meal charges:**

No student eligible for free meals will be denied a reimbursable lunch for any reason. Non-eligible students will be required to pay their lunch charges by the due date posted to FACTS. Charges are posted at the end of the month.

All non-eligible students will be charged for their meal.

**Preventing unpaid meal charges:**

School staff acts to prevent unpaid meal charges in the following ways:

* Meal applications are made available prior to the start of the school year, throughout the school year, and included in all new enrollment packets.
* All program materials are available in both English and Spanish.
* State data is promptly utilized certify eligible children without an application.
* Allows households to pay for meals in advance, adding a credit to FACTS.

* Ensures that households are aware of negative account balances and the potential to accrue meal debt by contacting the family directly to notify parents of delinquent balances.

**Collecting unpaid meal debt:**

All payments to are made to Christ the King School. In person payments may be made at the front office. Payments may also be made through the family’s FACTS account.

Communication regarding unpaid meal debt shall focus primarily on parents or guardians in the household responsible for providing funds for meal purchases. Meal balances may be requested at any time by calling the front office.

Prior to contacting households regarding unpaid meal debt, the school nutrition staff shall ensure that the student is not participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, or other federal programs, which would confer categorical eligibility for free school meals, or is not homeless, migrant, or in foster care, and would allow them to be certified without an application.

Any household with a negative school lunch account balance shall be contacted immediately by school nutrition staff by email, phone, or letter home to provide information on how to apply for free or reduced-price school meals or to provide payment information.

For households that cannot afford to pay their school meal charges, the school nutrition department will work with them to establish a payment plan. Households that are subsequently certified for free school meals at a point later in the school year shall not be required to repay school meal debt accrued prior to the certification date of the application. Households that are subsequently certified for Reduced price school meals, prior meal debt will be calculated at the reduced-price rate for which repayment will be required for any school meal debt accrued prior to the certification date of the application.

**Carry-over unpaid meal debt:**

Negative balances must be cleared up before the end of the school year. Notices will continue until the debt has been paid. All positive/negative balances at the end of the school year will carry over to the next school year.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERENCES

ARS 15-242

[www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/15/00242.htm](http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/15/00242.htm)

The Arizona Nutrition Standards

Arizona Healthy School Environment Model Policy [www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/HB2544/](http://www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/HB2544/) [www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/nslp/GuidanceManual](http://www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/nslp/GuidanceManual)

Action for Healthy Kids Coalition [www.actionforhealtykids.org/index.htm](http://www.actionforhealtykids.org/index.htm)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention [www.cdc.gov/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/default.htm)

Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points (HACCP) [www.cfsan.fda.gov/](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/)

United States Department of Agriculture and Team Nutrition School Wellness Policies:

[www.fnx.usda.gov/tn/Healthy/Wellnesspolicy.html](http://www.fnx.usda.gov/tn/Healthy/Wellnesspolicy.html)

School Nutrition Association School Wellness Policies [www.schoolnutrition.org](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/)

National alliance for Nutrition and Activity [www.schoolwellnesspolicies.org](http://www.schoolwellnesspolicies.org/)

ASSET

**Wellness Policy Assessment scheduled for May 2023.**