

WEAPONS POLICY

The following is the official weapons policy for all Catholic Schools within the Diocese of Gaylord.

1. DEFINITIONS:

- A. A "weapon" is an object which can be used to threaten or injure another. It includes, but is not limited to, "dangerous weapons", as defined by the State law, which includes a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with blade over 3 inches long, pocket knife opened by mechanical devise, iron bar or brass knuckles.
- B. "School premises" include the school building and the adjacent grounds, including, but not limited to, parking lot, playground, student lockers, and busses.
- C. "Immediate vicinity" of the school means within a block radius of the school, and any off-premises school activity site.
- D. A "firearm" means:
 - 1) any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action or an explosive;
 - 2) the frame or receiver of any such weapons;
 - 3) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or
 - 4) any destructive device.

2. RULES:

- A. Any student discovered to be, or suspected of, carrying, possessing, concealing or transferring a weapon upon school premises or in the immediate vicinity of the school will be immediately excluded from classes pending investigation.
- B. A search may be conducted to verify the suspicion or clarify the discovery. The search may include, without prior warning, an inspection and search of a student's pockets (the student empties his/her own pockets), book bags, purse, lunch pail, locker, automobile, or any other items the student has in his/her possession or control. Questioning for the same purposes may include questioning by the principal, a member of the administrative team, a school teacher, the pastor/pastoral administrator, or a person acting in the place of any of these persons.
- C. If a student refuses to cooperate or interferes with a search, said refusal to cooperate or interference will result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from school.

- D. The student will be detained whenever the school has reason to suspect a student may have a weapon or when a weapon is present on school premises or in the immediate vicinity of the school. Depending on the nature of the weapon, the local police department may be notified.
- E. Any student found to be in violation of the school's weapons policy is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. Any student determined to have brought a weapon to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year. The rule regarding expulsion can be modified by the school principal or superintendent on a case-by-case basis whenever, in the principal's sole judgment:
- 1) the weapon was not possessed by the student for use as a weapon;
 - 2) the weapon was not knowingly possessed by the student;
 - 3) the student did not know or have reason to know that the object constituted a dangerous weapon;
 - 4) the weapon was possessed by a student at the suggestion, request or direction of a school or police authority;
 - 5) mitigating circumstances justify other disciplinary action besides expulsion.
- F. If an injury occurs in school, on school premises or in the immediate vicinity of the school, as the result of a weapon, the principal and teachers shall endeavor:
- 1) to have students remain calm and avoid panic;
 - 2) to notify the police, the pastor/pastoral administrator of the parish/inter parish school;
 - 3) to secure the school, and
 - 4) to notify and consult with the Secretariat for Education and Formation. The Secretariat for Education and Formation will, in turn, notify appropriate offices in the Diocesan Pastoral Center.
- G. The principal may use discretion to keep non-school persons out of the school and/or retain students in the school until police have completed their investigation.

Policy Adopted: December, 1995

Policy Reviewed: August, 2008