

MAZZUCHELLI CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL



Procedural Guide 2026-2027

*Forming disciples of Jesus Christ through Catholic Educational Excellence.
Achieve. Lead. Soar.*

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Introduction

The procedures, rules, and guidelines set forth in this Procedural Guide relate specifically to Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School for the school year. This local procedural guide is to be used in conjunction with the system-wide Holy Family Catholic Schools Policies and Procedures Handbook.

Knowledge of the rules and regulations, their processes, and their implementation is the responsibility of all Middle School students and their families. A lack of knowledge or understanding of the rules and regulations will not be the cause of releasing a student from the responsibility of abiding by the stated policies.

These printed rules and regulations are considered a binding contract between the students and staff by virtue of choosing Holy Family Catholic Schools. The administration of Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School reserves the right to modify the published rules as necessary.

After-School Supervision

After-School Supervision will be provided free of charge in the Commons until 4:15PM. Students must remain seated in the Commons area during After-School Supervision. All students on the Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School campus who are not participating in supervised activities during this time are required to be in the Commons. Students who remain on campus prior to a "late" practice time slot for extra-curricular activities must report to the Commons for After-School Supervision.

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

Arrival/Morning Movement

The Commons will open to students at 7:00 a.m. Vehicles should drop students off in the traffic circle in front of Mazzuchelli or Wahlert. For safety, students should never be dropped off on Kane Street or Chaney Road.

Beginning at 7:15 a.m., students participate in Morning Movement, a supervised period of unstructured play. Options available to students may include the gym, the outdoor space behind the school, or other school-approved areas depending on weather, space, and availability.

The school day begins at 7:40 a.m.

Dismissal

Students will be dismissed at 2:45 PM. Students are allowed to ride only in vehicles which are parked on campus directly in front of Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School, in the Wahlert traffic circle, or in the Wahlert parking lot. For safety, students will not be allowed to access vehicles parked on the street. Students still on the Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School campus at 3:00 PM will report to After-School Supervision in the Commons.

All pets must remain inside vehicles during student pick up and drop off, with the exception of certified service dogs.

Athletics

The philosophy of Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School Athletics is one of participation and skill development. Sports offered include football, volleyball, cross country, wrestling, basketball, and track & field. Interscholastic athletics are for 7th & 8th grade students only. Students must stay eligible for athletics. (See Extra-Curricular Activity Eligibility)

Each student participating in athletics is required to have a Concussion Fact Sheet (completed electronically) and an Athletic Pre-Participation Physical Examination on file in the Wahlert Athletics Office before being allowed to participate in practice or competitions.

Attendance Procedures

Attendance

Student attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class period. Multiple instances of deliberate or excessive tardiness may result in disciplinary action.

Absence

If a student will be absent, parents/guardians must call the Mazzuchelli Office or email the school secretary before 8:00 AM. If the absence is planned in advance, the Office should be notified with a telephone call, email, or parent note of the dates and reason for the absence. A standard attendance letter will be emailed home after an accumulated 7 days of absence.

Late Arrival

Students arriving at school after 7:40 AM must sign in at the Office. Students who arrive between 7:40-8:00 AM will be marked as an "unexcused tardy" unless the tardy is excused within 24 hours with a telephone call, email, or parent note. Students who arrive after 8:00 AM will be marked as an "unexcused absence" unless the late arrival is excused within 24 hours with a telephone call, email, or parent note. A standard late arrival letter will be emailed home after an accumulated seven days of late arrivals.

Early Dismissal

Students needing to leave school prior to 2:45 PM must notify the office in advance with a telephone call, e-mail, or parent note. Students bringing notes should give them to the school

secretary. The office will issue students an early dismissal slip to give to their teacher when it is time to leave. Parents/guardians must come into the office to sign out their child. Students who return to school on the same day must stop in the office and sign in before returning to class. A school representative must be the one notifying parents/guardians if a child needs or requests to go home early.

Truancy

Students will be considered truant if absent with no parent communication. These absences are considered unexcused and subject to disciplinary action unless parent communication regarding the absence is received by the office within 24 hours.

Authorized Areas

Students are to stay in authorized areas of the Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School building at all times. Students who enter unauthorized areas without permission (Wahlert High School, Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Immersion School, elevators, etc.) are subject to disciplinary action.

Behavior Referral

A Behavior Referral is a form used by Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School Staff to report and document inappropriate behavior by students, resulting consequences, and communication with parents. Any Behavior Referral may result in a detention or other consequence. Multiple Behavior Referrals may result in additional consequences. (see Discipline)

Buses

The Dubuque Community School District provides busing or reimbursement (at their discretion) for students who live more than two miles from school and live within their district boundaries. All bus students must abide by the bus rules and consequences outlined by Dubuque Community School District. For additional information, contact the DCSD Transportation Department.

Cell Phone and Wireless Communication Devices

ACSB Policy #5160 states that cell phones, smart watches and any other wireless communication tools may not be used during school hours of 7:40 - 2:45. Cell phones and other wireless communication devices must be stored in their backpack, in their locker, or another secure location not on their person. The use of cell phones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas anytime at school-related or school-sponsored events. Consequences for infractions of the policy include the cell phone being turned into the office for the remainder of the day. On the third and any subsequent offense, the phone will be checked into the office each day for up to the next two weeks.

Classroom Distractions

Items used by students which cause a distraction to the educational environment may be confiscated by teachers. Fidgets are not allowed unless pre-approved by the school counselor or administration. Return of these items is subject to administrative discretion.

Daily Schedule (See Appendix A)

Appendix A contains the Regular Daily Schedule, Liturgy Schedule, and Late Arrival Schedule. In general, if a day of school is canceled because of snow, etc., the next day of school will replace the missed day. For example, if Monday was going to be an "O" Day but school was canceled, Tuesday would now become an "O" Day.)

Detentions

Detentions will be served from 2:45 - 3:30 PM unless other arrangements are made. Failure to serve a detention at the arranged time can result in additional penalties.

Discipline

MCMS students are expected to exhibit Christ-like behavior by demonstrating respect, taking responsibility, being appropriately engaged and building community.

Major incidents of misbehavior (e.g., harassment, fighting, deceit, etc.) will be referred to the Assistant Principal's Office. Consequences for such behavior may include but are not limited to isolated lunch, detention, office intervention, mandatory counseling, community service, conferencing with parents, restitution, ineligibility, suspension, etc. Concerns will be monitored by the Building Discipline Committee which is composed of the MCMS Leadership Team.

Dress Code (See Appendix B)

Eagle Pride Fridays

Students may wear Wahlert / Mazzuchelli / Eagle or other HFCS t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other cover garments on Fridays. All other dress code regulations apply.

Electronic Devices

School issued laptop computers are the only authorized devices during school hours. Other electronic devices are allowed subject to the approval and direct supervision of a staff member. Headphones and ear buds are allowed in the classroom (not in the hallways between classes) with the permission of the teacher. Students and their families are financially responsible for any school-issued or personal electronic devices that are lost, damaged, or stolen. HFCS Acceptable Use Policies apply to all electronic devices on school property. The "Acceptable Use" policy can be found in the Holy Family Catholic Schools Parent and Student Policy and Procedure Manual.

Extra-Curricular Activity Eligibility

Participation in athletics and other extra-curricular activities at Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School is a privilege. Each student is expected to earn passing grades. Determinations of academic ineligibility can be made by the administration at any time. This policy applies to both athletics and all other extracurricular activities.

- Students who receive incomplete or failing grades in one or more subjects at a checkpoint (e.g., mid-trimester, trimester) may be declared ineligible.
- Ineligibility may last until satisfactory progress is demonstrated in all affected classes.
- If satisfactory progress is not demonstrated, ineligibility may remain in effect for the rest of the school year, depending on the activity and administrative determination.

Practices During Ineligibility

- Attendance at practices during a suspension of eligibility will be determined collaboratively by parents/guardians, coaches, and administration.
- The decision will be communicated by the Assistant Principal and/or Activities Director to the coach or activity sponsor.
- For reinstatement to be considered, practice attendance may be expected.

Additional Policy on Activity Eligibility

1. Each student must maintain a good conduct record both in school and out of school all year round. Any student whose conduct or habits are such to make that student unworthy to represent the ideals and principles of Holy Family Catholic Schools may be ineligible to participate in or attend any extra-curricular activities for a designated period of time. The HFCS Substance Abuse Policy and the due process appeal procedures are outlined in the HFCS Policy & Procedure manual.
2. Each student must meet the expectations of his/her parents. Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School fully supports all parental requests to withhold students from extracurricular activities at any time and for any reason.
3. Each student is expected to attend a full day of school prior to participating in after-school extra-curricular practices and competitions/performances. However, family circumstances (funeral, doctor appointment, etc.) might cause parents to withhold their child from school for part or all of a day in which they are scheduled to participate in an after-school activity. The child's participation in after-school activities that day may be determined by the administrator and coach.

8th Grade High School Eligibility

See Appendix D

Grading Scale

A+	97-100	B+	87-89.99	C+	77-79.99	D+	67-69.99
A	93-96.99	B	83-86.99	C	73-76.99	D	63-66.99
A-	90-92.99	B-	80-82.99	C-	70-72.99	D-	60-62.99

Food & Beverages

- Students are not allowed to eat outside of the Commons without the permission and direct supervision of a teacher in that particular teacher's classroom.
- Food that is brought into the building should meet the guidelines outlined in the HFCS Wellness Policy including an emphasis on fruits, vegetables, and other healthy food options.
- Candy is not allowed. Mints are considered candy.
- Gum is not allowed. After a second offense, students may serve a detention.
- Coffee, caffeinated, and other non-water beverages are not allowed in the building for students. This is in effect at the time students arrive on campus in the AM.
- Water is the only beverage allowed outside of the Commons.
- Administrative approval is required for all celebrations and food items.

Lockers

Each student is assigned a locker. Students are expected to keep their lockers locked at all times. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items. All lockers are the property of Holy Family Catholic Schools and are subject to inspection by school officials. [ABE 5145.2]

1. No writing is allowed on the inside or outside of lockers.
2. Nothing may be attached to the outside of lockers.
3. Appropriate items may be attached to the inside of lockers. These items must be attached in such a way as to not permanently damage the lockers.

Lunch & Breakfast

Students must remain at school during lunch periods and eat school-prepared or home-prepared lunches. Milk is available. Fast food, deliveries, and pop are not allowed as part of student lunches. Free or reduced-cost lunches are available to students who qualify. Application forms can be found on the website and can be submitted to the Office at any time throughout the year. Breakfast is also available and is served every day from 7:15-7:30AM in the Wahlert cafeteria. Students who qualify for free or reduced-cost lunches also qualify for free or reduced-cost breakfast.

The lunch program is operated by Holy Family Catholic Schools. Each student will have an individual account and will be issued an ID card. Parents will be notified when their child's account runs low. Checks should be written to "Holy Family Lunch Program." The lunch/ID

card can be used only by the student to whom it is issued. If a card is lost or damaged, a replacement will be issued by the cafeteria staff and charged to the student's lunch account.

Make-Up Work

Make-Up Work for Extended Absences

If a child is absent from school for two or more days, parents may call the school office prior to 8:00AM for work to be picked up in the office between 2:30-3:15PM. Parents can also e-mail teachers directly to make other arrangements.

Newsletter

The school newsletter will be posted on the website each Friday.

Parent Association

All parents/guardians belong to the Middle School Parent Association and are encouraged to be active members. The MSPA supports the curricular and extra-curricular programs of the school through fellowship and projects. A donation of at least \$30 is requested from each family.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's work or ideas without giving them credit. It can be intentional or unintentional. Intentional plagiarism is the deliberate presentation of another's work or ideas as one's own. Unintentional plagiarism is the inadvertent presentation of another's work or ideas without proper acknowledgement.

Examples of plagiarism include:

- Downloading information from the Internet or other source and submitting it as one's own work.
- Submitting as one's own work that is copied or translated from another source.
- Paraphrasing, partial quotation, or summarization of another's work without properly acknowledging the creator of the original work.

Cheating is the deliberate or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, technology, or study-aids as well as giving or receiving improper assistance. It can also include representing or attempting to represent oneself as another, or attempting to have oneself represented by another academic endeavor.

Students are responsible for understanding the definitions of plagiarism and cheating and for avoiding engaging in either behavior. If you are unsure whether something constitutes plagiarism or cheating, it is always best to err on the side of caution and ask your instructor for clarification.

Here are some additional tips for avoiding plagiarism and cheating:

- Always cite your sources. This means providing the author, title, and publication information for any information you use that is not your own.
- Do not copy and paste text from another source without properly citing it.
- If you are paraphrasing or summarizing someone else's work, make sure to put it in your own words and cite the source.
- Do not ask someone else to do your work for you.
- Do not use unauthorized materials or information on tests or assignments.
- If you are unsure about whether something constitutes plagiarism or cheating, ask your instructor for clarification.

Artificial Intelligence

Student use of Artificial Intelligence to generate text, such as ChatGPT and translation tools, requires teacher permission and established guidelines. The degree of incorporation should be relatively limited and the acceptable standards will be established by the teacher monitoring the assessment. While artificial intelligence can prove to be a useful tool for helping enhance student learning, it cannot be used as a replacement for completing academic work.

All AI-generated material included in student work must be properly cited. Failure to do so will be considered plagiarism. [see [Plagiarism](#) policy] Listed below are two examples of acceptable AI citations:

MLA citation (source: [MLA Style Center](#))

"Describe the symbolism of the green light in the book *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald" prompt. *ChatGPT*, 13 Feb. version, OpenAI, 8 Mar. 2023, chat.openai.com/chat.

APA citation (source: [How to Cite ChatGPT](#))

OpenAI. (2023). *ChatGPT* (Mar 14 version) [Large language model].
<https://chat.openai.com/chat>

If a student is caught plagiarizing, cheating, or using AI to complete assignments dishonestly, they will be required to redo the assignment and submit their own original work. Parent communication will be made, and appropriate consequences may follow based on the nature and severity of the incident.

Posters

All posters or displays must be approved by the administration.

Progress Reporting

Progress reports are available on PowerSchool. A separate document concerning each student's behavior will be included with these reports. (See Behavior Expectations)

School Supply List (See Appendix C)

Student IDs

Each student will be issued an identification card. These cards are used for lunch, library check out, printing documents, PASS attendance, etc. Students should have their ID with them at all times. Lanyards are allowed.

Visitors

Parents, community members, and other visitors should report to the office. Visitors are asked to sign in at the office and to wear a visitor name tag. Visitors will be required to present a valid drivers license for our security protocols. Visitors should return the nametag to the office and sign out. Arrangements for student visitors need to be made with the administration at least 24 hours in advance.

Website

Please visit the Mazzuchelli pages of the HFCS website at <http://www.holyfamilydbq.org>.

Appendix A: Regular Daily Schedule, Liturgy Schedule, Late Arrival Schedule

REGULAR O/E DAILY SCHEDULE

Morning Movement	7:15-7:55
Period 1/2	8:00 - 9:20
Period 3/4	9:25 - 10:40
Period 5/6	10:45 - 12:00
Lunch	12:05 - 12:30
Mentoring / WIN	12:35 - 1:20
Period 7/8	1:25 - 2:45

2 HOUR LATE ARRIVAL SCHEDULE

Morning Movement	9:15 - 9:40
Period 1/2	9:40 - 10:35
Period 3/4	10:40 - 11:35
Period 5/6	11:40 - 12:00
Lunch	12:05 - 12:30
Period 5/6	12:35 - 1:10
Mentoring / WIN	1:10 - 1:45
Period 7/8	1:50 - 2:45

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Morning Movement	7:15 - 7:45
Period 1/2	7:50 - 8:55
Mass with Pd. 1/2	9:00 - 9:50
Period 3/4	9:55 - 10:55
Period 5/6	11:00 - 12:00
Lunch	12:05 - 12:30
Mentoring / WIN	12:35 - 1:20
Period 7/8	1:25 - 2:45



Appendix B: Dress Code

2026-2027 WAHLERT/MAZZUCHELLI DRESS CODE

The purpose of the Holy Family Catholic Schools dress code is to aid in providing a focused learning environment and to minimize faddishness and comparison among students. The dress code must be consistently appropriate for that environment to foster Christian respect and modesty. The school administration will have final discretion regarding what is appropriate and not appropriate for school. The dress code is reviewed and revised annually by the HFCS Student Services Committee.

SHIRTS, SWEATERS, SWEATSHIRTS, PULLOVERS, VESTS, AND JACKETS

- All items must be purchased or must have been purchased from the HFCS Uniform eStore or Lands' End School (see chart below).
- Only solid-colored white, black, gray, gold, navy or royal blue long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirts or turtlenecks with no visible lettering or graphics may be worn under dress code shirts.
- A crested HFCS school uniform item must be worn under a HFCS school uniform vest.
- Items from the Spirit Store, team websites, or other vendors are not dress code approved.

PANTS, SHORTS & SKORTS

- Only khaki (tan), black, gray, or navy dress pants, dress shorts or skorts (girls only) may be worn.
- Dress pants and dress shorts must not have contrasting stitching or trim.
- Jeans, sweatpants, yoga pants, leggings, cut-offs, spandex, and athletic shorts are not allowed.
- Shorts and skorts must be no shorter than approximately mid-thigh in length.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

- School-appropriate shoes and socks must be worn.
- Hats, caps, neck scarves, and gloves are not allowed.
- Mustaches and beards are not allowed. Sideburns may not extend beyond the end of the ear.
- Extreme hairstyles and unnatural colors are not permitted.
- Jewelry, make-up, and other accessories must be modest in presentation. Nose hoop piercings and pocket chains are not permitted.
- Hand drawn tattoos are not permitted. Permanent tattoos should be covered at school events.

EAGLE PRIDE FRIDAYS

- Students may wear Wahlert, Mazzuchelli, or other Holy Family related shirts, sweatshirts, and hooded sweatshirts on Fridays. All other dress code regulations apply. Items may be purchased but are not required to be purchased from the Golden Eagles Spirit Store (see chart below).

NON-DRESS CODE DAYS

- All clothing must exhibit modesty.
- Clothing with references to banned substances or messaging that is sexual in nature is forbidden.

<i>DAILY DRESS CODE (required)</i>	<i>EAGLE PRIDE FRIDAYS (optional)</i>
https://www.holyfamilydbq.org/resources/apparel/ / or https://www.holyfamilydbq.org/resources/apparel/lands-end-school/	https://www.holyfamilydbq.org/resources/apparel/ / or any other HFCS-related shirts/sweatshirts

Appendix C: School Supply List



☒	6TH-8TH-GRADE SUPPLIES	Qty	Notes
☐	Crayola Crayons, 24 pk	1	
☐	#2 Pencils, 12 pk	1	
☐	Pens	5	qty as needed, blue/black and red
☐	Highlighters	2	
☐	Expo dry-erase markers, chisel tip (4 pk)	1	
☐	Elmer's washable glue sticks	2	
☐	Spiral notebook	2	1 5-subject (all); 1 1-subject for science (6th)
☐	Loose leaf filler paper	1	wide or college ruled
☐	Index cards pack, white, lined	2	3x5"
☐	Post-It Notes	3	
☐	3-ring binder	2-4	1 each for for math & Spanish (ALL); 1 each for GTT and Religion (6th ONLY)
☐	Accordion file	1	at least 7 pockets
☐	Scissors	1	
☐	Pencil Case or Bank Bag	1	
☐	Headphones	1	earbuds or headphones okay
☐	Facial Tissues	3	
☐	Paper towel rolls	1	
☐	Hand sanitizer (8 oz+)	1	
☐	Disinfectant wipes (bleach free)	1	
☐	Bookbag	1	

Guidance for 8th Grade Eligibility for High School Sports

Overview

Beginning with the Fall 2026 athletic season, Wahlert Catholic High School will allow eligible eighth-grade students to participate in high school athletics following recent changes to Iowa law.

House File 2591 (2026) allows Iowa school districts to permit eighth-grade students to participate in high school interscholastic athletics. Wahlert Catholic has adopted local guidance allowing eligible eighth-grade students to try out for and participate on high school teams in sports offered at Wahlert Catholic, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

This opportunity is available to students who meet all participation requirements, complete the required registration process, and follow all Holy Family and athletic department expectations. Please see the Wahlert handbook for details.

Important Participation Rules

An eighth grader may not participate in the same sport on both a Mazzuchelli and Wahlert team during the same academic year, even if they occur at different times of the year.

Once an eighth grader competes at the middle school level, they are NOT allowed to participate at the high school level in that sport for the remainder of the school year. Likewise, once an eighth grader competes at the high school level, they are not permitted to compete in that sport at the middle school level for the remainder of the school year.

Process to Participate

- The interested student/parent shall complete an "Intent to Participate" form. The completion of this form is an indication of interest only. It will trigger follow-up information from the athletic department and the varsity head coach.
- The varsity head coach will communicate tryout and other pertinent information regarding the season.
- The varsity head coach and the Athletic Director will collectively make the determination of whether the student earns a roster spot. All decisions are final. Trying out for the sport does NOT guarantee a roster spot.

Please note:

- If a sport is offered by both Mazzuchelli and Wahlert, it is the intent that 8th graders will only be considered for a roster spot if the student is expected to be a contributor at the *varsity* level. In sports not offered by Mazzuchelli, more consideration will be given for lower-level roster spots.
- In sports that have competitive tryouts and cuts, 8th grade students are subject to identical selection criteria, timeline, and standards applied to the high school students.

- For programs without formal cuts, head coaches will establish roster sizes that allow for meaningful participation opportunities, skill development, and competitive balance. Final roster decisions will be made by the coaching staff.
- The addition of 8th graders will not result in additional teams, coaches, contests or resources beyond what is already allocated for the high school program.
- No guarantee of playing time should be expected just because a student earns a roster spot. These decisions are within the sole discretion of the coaching staff.
- Wahlert Catholic athletic administration and coaching staffs reserve the right to amend considerations for sub-varsity levels if the high school program is at risk of not fielding a team at a certain level due to low participation numbers.

Inclement Weather & Cold Temperature Supervision Policy

Indoor Supervision & Student Expectations

For safety during extreme cold weather, students are required to wait inside designated school areas during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Staff will provide indoor supervision during severe cold; outdoor areas will not be monitored. Student drivers must head directly to their vehicles or enter the building upon arrival and release without congregating outdoors. Parents are expected to ensure their children are dressed in appropriate winter attire for transit to and from school.

Vets Lot Remote Parking Guidelines

Specific cold-weather accommodations apply based on National Weather Service wind chill thresholds:

- **Wind Chill Above -25°F:** Students parking at the Vets lot are expected to complete the walk using appropriate cold-weather attire (coats, hats, and gloves).
- **Wind Chill -25°F to -34°F:** Optional shuttle busing or transportation accommodations may be provided to assist students with remote parking transitions during peak arrival and dismissal times.

Wind Chill -35°F or Below: Frostbite risk on exposed skin occurs in under 10 minutes, matching the walk time. Mandatory shuttle transportation will be provided for remote parking.