

Health Policies

St. George Catholic School maintains a First Aid Room staffed by a nurse. Services are limited to maintaining health, medication, and emergency records and filing of required reports; contacting parents in case of student illness; treating the ordinary bumps, scrapes and illnesses that are part of daily life; administering prescription medications for a serious chronic illness diagnosed by a physician (if a student takes any medication on a regular basis at home, parents should notify the school nurse); and conducting hearing and vision screenings.

As part of the registration/re-registration process, a parent or guardian must provide St. George School with a current immunization status on file. This includes a state of Louisiana Universal Certificate of Immunizations, Statement of Exemption from Immunizations, or a medical dissent from a physician. Please contact the school nurse at 293-1298 if you have any questions about immunization requirements.

NOTICE PURSUANT TO LA. R.S. § 17:170(E)(2)

In accordance with Act No. 675 (HB 47 of the Louisiana Legislature's 2024 Regular Session) and La. R.S. § 17:170(E)(2), please be advised of the following:

La. R.S. § 17:170(E)(1) provides that "No person attending or seeking to enter any school or facility enumerated in Subsection A of this Section shall be required to comply with the provisions of this Section, including any additional immunization or proof of immunity requirement adopted pursuant to the provisions of this Section, if the person is a distance learner or if the person or his parent or guardian submits either a written statement from a physician stating that the procedure is contraindicated for medical reasons, or a written dissent from the student or his parent or guardian."

Services that are not available in our First Aid Room are:

- Diagnosing or performing invasive procedures.
- Lengthy monitoring of children who become ill at school.
- Administer medication on an "as needed" basis.

Students must be picked up within an hour of being contacted by the nurse. Children should be free of fever, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea for 24 hours (without the use of medication, e.g. Tylenol, Advil, Motrin, or an anti-diarrheal medication, that would mask these symptoms), before returning to school. Students being picked up from school with these symptoms may not return until they have been free of symptoms for 24 hours from the time of pick up. Students absent for three consecutive days due to illness should submit a doctor's note through the school website and contact the school nurse before returning to school. If seen by a physician for a contagious illness, the student must have a note from the physician stating when the student may return.

All teachers will receive information on students in their classes with documented medical needs and explanations regarding these needs (i.e., symptoms, immediate emergency response, etc.)

Medication Policy:

Students are not allowed to have any medication, prescription or non-prescription, in their possession at any time on the school grounds. Teachers and school administrators have the right to take any medication from the student and contact the parent for appropriate action.

If medication must be administered at school on a regular basis a **St. George Catholic School Parental Consent Form for Medication Administration** (available at the school office or on the school website) must be completed and signed by the parent and the physician for each medication. The physician's portion of the form must include the child's name, diagnosis, name of the medication, time/frequency to be administered at school, dosage and length of time to be administered. This form must accompany the medication. Medication is only administered between 10:00AM and 1:00PM. A new physician's order is needed at the beginning of each school year. Verbal phone orders from physicians or parents cannot be accepted. Proper procedure for medication will be followed, or medication will not be administered. No exceptions will be made.

Prescribed medication must be in an updated container that meets acceptable pharmaceutical standards. The label must include the name of student to be administered medication, name of medication, strength, and amount and time it is to be administered.

Each child will report to the First Aid Room at the prescribed time to receive medication from the school nurse or approved office personnel between 10:00AM and 1:00PM. The medication chart will be checked to ensure proper medical administration.

Only a one-month's supply of medication will be accepted at one time. Medicine kept in the school's nurses' office is not accessible after 3:10 PM. It is the parents' responsibility to inform all afterschool activity moderators of their child's needs.

Teachers may not keep medication for a student in the classroom, nor can a teacher administer medication to a student except on field trips or in accordance with the St. George Catholic School medication policy.

If medication must be administered on school, but not on a regular basis, the medication that is to be administered must be brought to school by parent or guardian and given to the student in the presence of the school nurse.

PLEASE NOTE: The following medications will not be given in the First Aid Room: antibiotics, barbiturates, narcotics, or non-prescription medications including, but not limited to, cough drops, Chap Stick, and Vaseline. If necessary, a parent may administer medication to their child in the nurse's office.

Hydration/Water Bottle Policy:

Students have access to water throughout the day. Water fountains are provided in all hallways and restrooms. If a student chooses to bring a water bottle to school, the water bottle must be plastic and transparent (no glass or metal). Water bottles can only be filled with water, unless they are packed in a lunchbox for lunchtime ONLY. Flavors and additives should not be in water bottles that are used in the classroom. Water bottles that allow for flavor packs to be inserted in are not allowed for classroom use (ex. Cirkul)

Orthopedic Appliance Policy:

Sometimes students may need to wear orthopedic appliances (like a cast, sling, brace, walking boot, crutches, or ace bandage) after an injury. These devices are used to support, align, or protect the body during healing.

To help keep all students safe:

- **Students wearing an orthopedic appliance will not be allowed to participate in recess, physical education (PE), or any school sports.**

If your child needs special accommodations, such as help moving between classrooms (e.g., using crutches or a wheelchair), using the bathroom, or completing classroom tasks (e.g., writing or carrying a backpack):

1. A **doctor's note must be uploaded** to the nurses on the school website. If you are unsure how to upload the document, please contact the school office for assistance.
2. A **parent or guardian must contact the school nurse** to discuss your child's needs.

Accommodations will not be provided until both steps are completed.

After the orthopedic appliance is removed:

- If your child still has any restrictions, a **new doctor's note must be uploaded** explaining what your child can and cannot do and when they are expected to return to full activity.

Head Lice:

Head lice are a common occurrence among school-age children. It is spread through direct contact and the sharing of personal items. Parents must notify the school nurse if their child has lice. Students must be checked by the school nurse and found to be lice and nit-free before returning to class.

Food and Nut Allergy Awareness:

Our school is committed to the health and safety of all students. In an effort to meet the needs of those with severe and/or life-threatening food allergies, we ask for the cooperation and compassion of every member of our school community.

To demonstrate good stewardship and love of neighbor, we ask that parents and students follow these important guidelines:

- Do not bring loose nuts to school at any time.
- All food sent to school must have a label on it unless it is fresh fruit.
- Food items with labels that say the item "contains or may contain nuts/nut particles/nut butter" may be eaten in the cafeteria only. All other times when food is eaten, the label cannot contain those statements, but can say, "made in a facility with nuts."
- Snacks must be in their original packaging with a label.
- Remind children not to share food with classmates.
- Alert the school if your child has a diagnosed food allergy so that appropriate care plans can be developed.
- Support allergy-safe events by bringing only approved treats to classroom parties and school functions.

By following these practices, we help create a safe and welcoming environment for all students.

Students with Nut Allergies: The St. George cafeteria will not serve items with peanuts or peanut products. Students with identified nut allergies will be seated in a designated area separate from students who bring bag lunches from home. Students bringing bag lunches from home will be directed to wash their hands following lunch. Students with identified nut allergies will not be given any food items brought for the class by other students/parents without written permission from the child's parent to the child's teacher AND the school nurse. All students (PreK and Kinder) with food allergies must provide their own snack. (Continue to read about Severe and/or Life-threatening medical conditions.)

Severe and/or Life-Threatening Medical Conditions: Any and all students with severe and/or life-threatening medical conditions (including nut allergies) must schedule a meeting with the school nurse prior to the beginning of each school year. Students may not be allowed to begin school until the meeting has been documented. All parents of students with documented severe and/or life-threatening medical conditions must consult with the school nurse before an off-campus special events and could be required to attend the event for the safety of their child.