# St. Anthony School Programs

# Parent Handbook

St. Anthony Administrative Office
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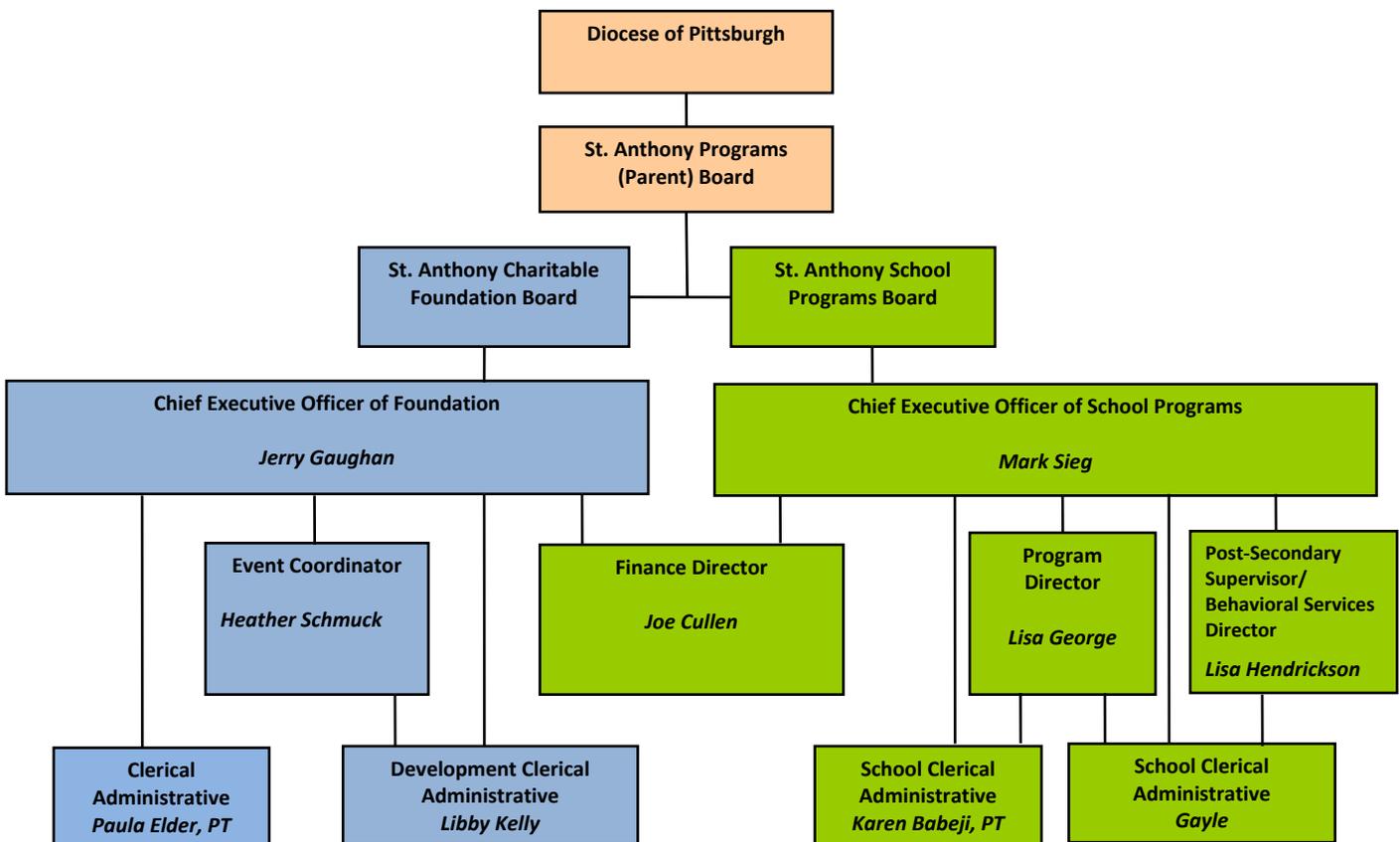FAX 724-940-9064
www.stanthonykids.org

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### A. Mission Statement

St. Anthony School Programs forms an integral part of the educational ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.  Rooted in the Gospel, St. Anthony School Programs provides moral and spiritual formation, an academic course of studies and vocational training for students ages 5 to 21 with intellectual disabilities.  The program seeks to maximize the individual student's potential for academic learning, to foster self-respect and confidence, and to develop competence in employment and living skills.  In pursuit of this mission, St. Anthony School Programs promotes the concept of inclusive education within the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

### B. Organizational Structure

**ST. ANTHONY PROGRAMS**
**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

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                          Diocese of Pittsburgh
                                  |
                         St. Anthony Programs
                            (Parent) Board
                                  |
        ┌─────────────────────────┴─────────────────────────┐
  St. Anthony Charitable                          St. Anthony School
   Foundation Board                                Programs Board
        |                                                 |
Chief Executive Officer of Foundation      Chief Executive Officer of School Programs
        Jerry Gaughan                                 Mark Sieg
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**Chief Executive Officer of Foundation**

*Jerry Gaughan*

**Event Coordinator**

*Heather Schmuck*

**Chief Executive Officer of School Programs**

*Mark Sieg*

**Finance Director**

*Joe Cullen*

**Program Director**

*Lisa George*

**Post-Secondary Supervisor/ Behavioral Services Director**

*Lisa Hendrickson*

**Clerical Administrative**
*Paula Elder, PT*

**Development Clerical Administrative**
*Libby Kelly*

**School Clerical Administrative**
*Karen Babeji, PT*

**School Clerical Administrative**
*Gayle*

September, 2016

**C. History**

In 1921, a group of Italian language parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh opened St. Anthony Village as an orphanage in Oakmont. The Village provided a home, academic education, and faith training for the children in its care.

By 1950, the trends for caring for dependent children began to change. As a result, the mission of the Village changed from caring for dependent children to educating children with mental retardation. Thus in 1953, St. Anthony Village changed its mission and its name to St. Anthony School for Exceptional Children, and it was incorporated as a school and residential program for children with mental retardation.

In 1986, our first "satellite" program was opened at St. Thomas More in Bethel Park.

In 1992, St. Anthony School for Exceptional Children became St. Anthony School Programs. At that time, the segregated center in Oakmont was vacated; a new administrative site was opened; and St. Anthony School Programs became an inclusive education program.

In 1995, the Post-Secondary Program at Duquesne University was opened for students between the ages of 18-21. At the start of the 2008-2009 school year, in conjunction with the Post-Secondary Program, St. Anthony's opened a life skills training facility at an apartment in the Squirrel Hill area. This part of the Post-Secondary Program provides life skills training for students in a community setting.

St. Anthony School Programs currently operates 7 elementary classrooms, 3 high school classrooms, a post-secondary program at Duquesne University; a 2-week summer program; and an administrative office which coordinates the school's activities. On average, St. Anthony School Programs serves 100-115 students per year. For additional information regarding St. Anthony's history, please visit our website: www.stanthonykids.org.

**2. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

St. Anthony School Programs offers inclusive special education in the Diocese of Pittsburgh to students ages 5-21 who are diagnosed with Down syndrome, Intellectual Disability, and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is written on a yearly basis with input from the parents and the IEP is reviewed at the parent conference. The frequency and duration of each student's time in inclusive classes is based upon the student's academic levels and behavior. A description of each student's inclusive program is listed in his/her IEP.

**A. Elementary Program**

At the Elementary Level (grades K-8), students spend part of their day in the St. Anthony Resource Room learning basic academics and part of their day in inclusive classes such as religion, social studies, science, art, gym, and music. Paraprofessionals support the students in their inclusive classes. Our goal is to have the students participate with their same-age peers as much as possible, when appropriate.

Participation in extracurricular activities is encouraged and opportunities vary by school.

## B.  High School Program
At the High School Level (grades 9-12), students are provided a balance of inclusive classes, functional academics in the Resource Room, and off-site vocational training, as appropriate.  Students are encouraged to participate in clubs, activities, sports, and social functions offered by the school.  The priority is for the student to enjoy as typical a high school experience as possible while promoting independence for each student.

## C.  Post-Secondary Program
At the Post-Secondary Level (ages 18-21), students are provided the unique opportunity of being based on the campus of Duquesne University.  This program consists of functional academic classes taught by our staff; on-campus and off-campus vocational training sites; independent living and community-based instruction at our Life Skills Training Apartment; and mobility training using public transportation, as well as navigating streets.  This is all enhanced by the assistance of Duquesne Work-Study students and numerous collaborations in many departments of the University.  The goal is for each student to be a productive, contributing member of society at his/her highest level of independence.

## 3.  CURRICULUM AND SERVICES
Students have access, as appropriate, to the general education curriculum at the inclusive site, as well as an individualized St. Anthony curriculum taught in the Resource Room that addresses specific levels of academic instruction.  Adaptations and modifications are provided by the St. Anthony staff to the general education classes when needed.  Levels of inclusion vary from student to student, and are dependent upon social skills, behavior, and academic level. The overall goal for each student is to have as much independence as possible.

Services provided to the Elementary Level may include:
- Social Skills Instruction
- Motor Skills Instruction (Occupational Therapy; Physical Therapy)
- Speech Therapy
- Music Therapy

Services provided to High School and Post-Secondary Levels may include:
- Behavioral Health Instruction
- Vocational Training
- Mobility Training

## 4.  ADMISSION PROCEDURE AND REQUIREMENTS
Initial inquiries are made to the St. Anthony Administration, and basic information regarding the student is gathered.  To be eligible for admission, the child must:

1. Be between the ages of 5-21.

2.  Have a primary diagnosis of Autism, Down syndrome, or Intellectual Disability. For these purposes, Intellectual Disability would be considered an IQ below 80.

If the student meets the basic qualifications for the program, an interview/tour is scheduled at the appropriate site.  During this initial visit, a tour of the school is given, and families have an opportunity to meet the students and staff of the Resource Room. Documentation including Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate (if baptized Catholic), Evaluation Report (ER) or Re-Evaluation Report (RR), Psychological Evaluation, Immunizations, IEP, and other pertinent information should be provided to the administrator.  If the St. Anthony team members deem the child appropriate for the program, the family will be notified and a deposit is required.  The deposit is nonrefundable, but will be credited to the student's first semester's tuition upon starting the program.  Additional school visits are then scheduled in order for the teacher to administer formal/informal assessments.  Once placed on the enrollment roster and the file is complete, more information will be sent to the family regarding the inclusive site.

Circumstances/situations in which a child *MAY NOT* be considered eligible/appropriate for the program may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1.  Significant/frequent/extreme aggressive behaviors (self-injurious or towards others) or other disruptive behaviors that would affect the learning of other students.

2.  A primary diagnosis that is not consistent with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum, Down syndrome, or Intellectual Disability as outlined above.  By way of example, this may include learning disabilities, ADHD, and/or emotional disturbance.

3.  Any significant physical, neurological or medical conditions that are outside our staffs' ability to care for the student.  By way of example, the diagnosis may include feeding tubes, seizures, etc.

4. A student who requires the 1:1 attention and intervention of wraparound services/TSS.

**5.  <u>FINANCIAL STRUCTURE, TUITION POLICY, FINANCIAL AID AND FEES</u>**
Because of its non-public school status, St. Anthony School Programs receives no state or federal funds. Our sources of income include tuition, Diocesan subsidy, Knights of Columbus fundraising, grants, fundraising, donations and bequests.  The fiscal year runs from July through June.

**A.  Tuition Policy**
Tuition is based on a percentage of per pupil cost.  The tuition plan includes a two-tiered structure for Catholics and Non-Catholics.

**1. Tuition Payments**

Families can choose to pay tuition in ten monthly installments, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.  The ten monthly installment payments will begin in July and continue through April.

All families on a monthly payment plan are required to sign-up for *Smart Tuition.* Families will receive tuition bills and statements directly from *Smart Tuition*.

**2. Tuition Collection Policy**

The Chief Executive Officer of School Programs and/or Finance Director will review all delinquent tuition accounts.  If a payment cannot be made, due to a change in the family's financial situation, a payment plan will be considered.  A satisfactory payment plan is one which will bring the account current by the end of the semester in question, with the final payment not extending past the final day of class in June.

If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be reached, the account will be referred to the Tuition Committee.

## B. Financial Aid

Tuition assistance is available to qualifying families regardless of religion.  To be eligible to receive tuition assistance, parents must complete the financial aid form annually.  A financial aid application packet is mailed in January/February of each year to all currently enrolled families.  The packet will include an application form and instructions on how to apply for financial aid.

The Tuition Committee will determine financial aid awards based on need.  Filling out the financial aid application does not automatically qualify you for financial aid.  For questions or assistance in filling out the financial aid form, please contact the Finance Director.

## C. Additional Fees

Should a student's inclusive site impose miscellaneous education-related fees (by way of example, activity and technology fees) St. Anthony's has the option to require that the student's family be responsible for the payment of these additional fees.

## 6. INCLUSIVE SITE INFORMATION

All St. Anthony School Programs' families are responsible for becoming familiar with their inclusive site's Student Handbook for specific policies such as purchasing school uniforms, school calendar/hours, lunch tickets, school supplies, and other important policies pertaining specifically to their school site.

## A. Dress Code

Students in the St. Anthony School Program are expected to follow the dress code of the inclusive site.  Adaptations necessitated by the disability (i.e., tennis shoes to accommodate braces) can be made by notifying the Program Director and the inclusive

site's principal.  Parents will receive information regarding the dress code from the inclusive site's principal.  Repeated dress code violations may subject the student to disciplinary measures.

## B.  School Calendar
Parents will receive a school calendar from the inclusive site that your child attends.  Throughout the year, however, the Resource Room teacher will notify you of various events specifically for St. Anthony School Programs.

## C.  School Hours
The inclusive site's principal determines starting and ending times for each school.  It is recognized that some inclusive sites operate before and after school care programs.  St. Anthony School Programs does not staff these programs, nor can we provide support in them.  If a parent is interested in before or after school care, he/she must discuss their needs with the inclusive site's principal.  Appropriate levels of support are critical to safety and must be carefully determined.

## D.  Extracurricular Activities
Information on available extracurricular activities can be found in the inclusive site's Student Handbook or website.  Please note that a parent or supervisor may be required for student participation.  Please see *Section 5, Subsection C*, regarding additional fees that may apply.

## 7.  IEP PROCESS
The IEP is written on a yearly basis by the Resource Room teacher, and reflects what is taught in the Resource Room, based on St. Anthony School Programs' curriculum.

The Parent IEP Input Form is sent home within the first week of school to provide an opportunity to express your needs and priorities for your child.  This information, along with observations from the teacher's informal assessment, will provide data required to generate the present educational levels and objectives for the IEP.

Once the first draft of the IEP is complete, the teacher will send home a copy of the IEP for you to review, one week before the scheduled conference.  At the conference the document will be discussed, finalized and signed.

About 1 week after the IEP conference, your child's final copy of the IEP will be sent home with the St. Anthony Report Card in a designated/labeled folder. The folder and its contents need to be sent back to the Resource Room teacher within three (3) school days.  At the end of the school year, you will be able to keep the folder and its contents.

## 8. REPORT CARDS

Grades for the report card directly correspond to the IEP codes.  The numeric codes under each subject area on the IEP are totaled and averaged to get one number, then transposed to the report card as a letter grade.  Inclusive class grades are determined by the general education teacher in collaboration with the Resource Room teacher, and are based on scores from adapted tests, quizzes, projects, level of participation, effort, and behavior.  Report cards are to be signed by the parent and returned to the Resource Room teacher within three (3) school days.

## 9. STUDENT RECORDS

Information gathered by St. Anthony's Administration to keep in a student's record includes the following:
- Admission information
- Interview forms
- Evaluation Report (ER) or Re-Evaluation Report (RR) from home school district
- Psychological evaluation  (From a private source)
- Current IEP
- Birth Certificate
- Baptismal certificate (If Baptized Catholic)
- Immunization records
- St. Anthony permanent record card
- St. Anthony IEP records, report cards
- Therapy reports (if applicable) - such as speech therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy

School records will be transferred to another school or agency after parents have completed the required release of records form.  Only information belonging to the school can be transferred.  St. Anthony School Programs will not transfer records from a prior placement or an outside agency/professional.  Those records must be transferred from the originating source.  Records cannot be released to parents for transfer, but St. Anthony School Programs will send records to another school or agency by mail.  An appointment is required for parents to review their child's permanent records at the St. Anthony Administrative Office.

## 10. RIGHTS OF NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act gives full rights to each parent, unless the school has been provided with evidence that there is a court order, state's statute or legally binding document relating to such matters as divorce, separation or custody that specifically revokes or limits these rights. Such documentation is to be provided to the Administrative Office, shall remain on file in the Administrative Office, and those persons responsible for the child(ren) are to be informed of the circumstances. Absent any court order, state's statute or legally binding document that has been provided to the school evidencing a revocation or limitation of such rights, every effort is made to keep the non-custodial parent appraised of the progress of the child(ren) through reports, report cards and parent/teacher conferences.

**11.  TRANSPORTATION**
St. Anthony School Programs is not responsible for student transportation.  All bus routes are run by the home school district/contracted bus company.  Students are eligible for transportation according to your home school district's policies.  City of Pittsburgh students within the 10-mile boundary will be signed up through the St. Anthony Administrative Office.  All parents outside the City of Pittsburgh need to contact your local school district, which will then instruct you on how to obtain transportation. *Special Education students are entitled to door-to-door transportation*.  If receiving door-to-door transportation, it is the parent's responsibility to notify the bus company in case of absence or a change of schedule such as an early dismissal.

All students are expected to follow all busing rules and guidelines set forth by the bus company.  To the extent that they are not followed, disciplinary action by the bus company or St. Anthony School Programs may be enforced.  A series of repeated violations (by way of example, fighting, swearing, throwing items, etc.) may result in the suspension of bus privileges.  Parents are to emphasize the importance of safety and good conduct on the bus.  Parents should receive transportation information 1-2 weeks prior to the start of school, and allow 1-2 weeks if transportation is needed after the school year starts.  All transportation questions can be handled through the St. Anthony Administrative Office.

**12.  EMERGENCY CONTACTS**
Unexpected situations (by way of example, weather conditions, student illness, emergency early dismissals, etc.) can arise at any time, therefore, it is imperative that you provide current contact information throughout the school year to the St. Anthony Resource Room staff AND the St. Anthony Administrative Office staff.  This includes updating the Resource Room and Administrative Office with any changes in your cell, home, and work phone numbers and any changes in Emergency Contact phone numbers which occur throughout the school year.

**13.  SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYS**
Whenever there is a question of school being in session, families should use the following steps:

1.  First, find out if your home school district has delayed/closed school.

2.  Next, find out if your inclusive site has delayed/closed school.

3.  If your home district and inclusive site are on different schedules, then you may need to check with your home district bus company regarding transportation.

4.  You **MAY** keep your child at home if you feel the road conditions are dangerous.  This is considered an excused absence.

5.  If your inclusive site has a delay, but your home school district does not, your

child will follow the inclusive site delay.  You **CANNOT** send your child to school at the regular start time when the inclusive site is on a delay, as there will be no one at the inclusive site at the regular start time.

## A.  School Closings

1.  If your inclusive site has closed, your child will not have school that day.

2.  If your home school district has closed, but your inclusive site has not, your child will have school, but your home school district will not provide bus transportation.

## 14.  ATTENDANCE
St. Anthony School Programs keeps the official attendance records.  It is important that you notify the Resource Room teacher by 8:00 am if your child will be absent that day.

Per Pennsylvania state mandate, parents must send a written excuse to school with their child after every absence, indicating the date and reason for absence.

## 15.  STUDENT ILLNESS
St. Anthony students who become ill during the day may be sent home.  Should the Resource Room teacher determine that a student is too ill to profit from instruction, or it is not in the best interest of the other students for the ill student to stay at school, a parent, guardian, or other emergency contact will be contacted to pick-up the student in a timely manner.  All students must have on file a current phone number for an emergency contact person.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that people with influenza-like symptoms remain at home for at least 24-hours after they are free of fever (100 degrees or higher) or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.

In addition, please consider the following guidelines when making the decision to send your child to school:

- Acute cold or persistent cough which prohibits your child from profiting from school.
- Nausea and vomiting – Children should be free of vomiting for 24-hours before returning to school.
- Inability to sleep most of the night because of illness.  If a child is up all night because they don't feel well, sending them to school would not be appropriate.

A doctor's excuse must be provided to the student's Resource Room teacher after the student has been absent due to illness for three (3) or more consecutive school days.

## 16.  CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE CODE

Regardless of disability, students are expected to act in an appropriate manner throughout the school day, including during any district provided transportation to and from school.  When inappropriate behavior becomes a persistent problem, students will be placed on a positive behavior management plan set up by the St. Anthony staff.

A student who does not respond to the positive behavior management plan may be expelled for the following reasons.  This list is by way of example only:

1.  Terroristic threats
2.  Violent and/or aggressive behaviors towards students, and/or staff
3.  Threats toward others (verbal, written or gestural)
4.  Self-injurious behavior
5.  Any purposeful action that results in bodily harm to another
6.  Conduct judged by the St. Anthony Administrative staff as contrary to the purpose of Catholic education, the goals of the program, or the physical or spiritual welfare of the staff, students or members of the school community.

In the areas where a specific Diocesan or St. Anthony's policy exists, those policies apply and can result in referrals to law enforcement or other government agencies.  By way of example only:

1.  Weapons Policy
2.  Drug/Alcohol Policy
3.  Harassment Policy

## 17.  HEALTH AND MEDICAL

### A.  Administration of Medication During School Hours
   **(Reference Diocesan Principals' Handbook Policy 560.08)**

Medication should be given at home, and physicians should be asked to change the schedule for the administration of medication so that it can be given before and after school hours.  However, when medication must be administered during school hours, a written procedure for administration and storage of medication is required to ensure student safety and to mitigate any liability of the school and school personnel.  Any additional requirements imposed by the school site must be followed.  All medications shall be self-administered or administered by a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, or by the parent or their designee.

Students requiring a fast-acting inhaler, such as albuterol for asthma or epinephrine for life-threatening allergies may be self-administered.  Students may carry their own medication and administer it during the school day as ordered by their licensed prescriber and authorized by their parent and school.

An order from a licensed prescriber for the medication, including a statement that it is

necessary for the student to carry the medication and that the student is capable of self-administration, is required before the student may carry the medication on his/her person.  A student needing to self-carry emergency medication should have an emergency care plan or a similar form completed by their healthcare provider.  Before allowing a student to self-carry medication, the nurse assigned to the school will ensure that the student is competent in self-care through demonstration of administration skills and responsible behavior.  The student must notify school administration immediately following each use.

1.  When possible, school personnel should supervise the student's self-administration of medication.

2.  Stored medications administered by a registered nurse, LPN or parent must be in a secure locked location.  Students should never be given access to this location.

3.  The medication should be delivered to the school by the parent, guardian or other responsible adult along with the treating physician's written documentation relative to the diagnosis, prescribed medication, dosage and instructions for the student's self-administration of the medication.

4.  Medication brought to school must be in a container labeled by a pharmacist or doctor. The label must include the student's name, the name of the physician, date of prescription, dosage and frequency of administration.

5.  If the student is not carrying the EpiPen or inhaler, a specific staff member should be given the responsibility of distributing medication to students for self-medication.

6.  A record book must be maintained indicating the student's name, the name of the medication, the date and time of distribution to the student for self-medication, and the identity of the person distributing medication to the student for self-medication.  This record must be marked every time medication is dispensed.

### *B.* **Medical Exams**
Pennsylvania State Law REQUIRES reports of physical and dental exams be part of the child's school health file.  Parents are notified when such exams are due, and are expected to comply on or before the due date.

### *C.* **School Health Screenings**
School health screenings are conducted yearly for height and weight, vision, and hearing.  Parents are notified if their child is being referred to a physician for further examination.  Referral forms are to be returned to school as soon as possible.

## 18.  FIELD TRIP POLICY AND PROCEDURES

### A.  Permission Sips
A "Special Activities Form," which is the general permission slip for St. Anthony's, is signed by the parents at the beginning of the year.  This gives the student general permission for outings.

A permission slip must be signed for each site specific field trip or activity that the student attends.  For example, if the St. Therese second grade is going to the pumpkin farm, each second grade St. Anthony student attending must return a signed permission slip from the inclusive site, or they will not be permitted to attend the field trip/activity.

### B.  Field Trip Transportation
Students are to be transported to and from the field trip/activity **ONLY** by:
- School Bus
- St. Anthony School Program vehicle
- Child's own parent or guardian

## 19.  SCHOOL VISITATION
Parents are required to make an appointment with the Resource Room teacher or regular education teachers for conferences and/or to discuss ideas, problems, or concerns.  Parents are not permitted to stop in the Resource Room unannounced.

For security reasons, it is mandatory to check in at the school office upon each and every visit.  Each site has its own procedures for visitors or taking your child out of school before dismissal time.  Inclusive class observation requests will follow the policy of the inclusive site.

St. Anthony School Programs does not permit wraparound services, Therapeutic Support Staff, in our classrooms.  In addition, the number of hours/days a BSC/mobile therapist/case manager can observe in the classrooms is limited.  These observations must be pre-arranged and approved by the Resource Room teacher, and limited to one-hour per week.  Your BSC must provide the Resource Room teacher with the following information – name of agency, phone number, and treatment plan goals that justify school/classroom observation/visits.

## 20.  FUNDRAISING
The St. Anthony Charitable Foundation sponsors various fundraisers throughout the year to assure the continuance and stability of our program.  Families are encouraged to become involved by attending and participating in these events.

Parents may choose to participate in general fundraising events sponsored by the inclusive site, but are not obligated to do so.  The monies raised by events sponsored by the inclusive site are solely for the benefit of the inclusive site.
However, families are expected to support any mandatory fundraising activities at the host site which are being sponsored by a club or activity in which your student participates.

**21**. <u>**VOLUNTEERS**</u>
Prior to becoming a school volunteer, chaperoning field trips, or participating in other volunteer work with St. Anthony's or at the inclusive site, parents are required to complete the necessary steps to become compliant with the Diocese of Pittsburgh's Safe Environment Policy.  Please see the Diocesan website <u>www.diopitt.org</u> for the Safe Environment Policy requirements, or contact the St. Anthony Safe Environment Coordinator at 724.940.9020 ext. 107.

**22.** <u>**WITHDRAWALS AND TRANSFERS**</u>
When a child is leaving the program to transfer to another school, parents should call the Administration Office to notify the staff of the family's intent and to request a Release of Records Form.  If tuition account is delinquent, school records may be held until payment is made in full.  Medical records, however, will be transferred.

Appendix A

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What are the responsibilities of the aides in the classroom?**
   The paraprofessionals accompany the students to the general education classes (inclusive classes) and help redirect their focus, facilitate social skills, encourage language, give reminders (prompts) for appropriate behaviors. We call this "supporting."

2. **Is there an aide with the St. Anthony students all the time? Can they have the same aide all the time?**
   General rule: the younger the student, the more support we provide. Only our very young students always have a paraprofessional. Our goal is for our students to be as independent as possible. Students become dependent on one adult when only one is with them all the time.

3. **Who adapts tests, homework, and worksheets for the student?**
   It is the responsibility of the St. Anthony Resource Room teacher to make any adjustments to the general education curriculum (adaptations, modifications) when necessary. Homework, worksheets, and study guides can also be created by a qualified and experienced paraprofessional.

4. **How is your grading scale different?**
   Regardless of the adaptations/modifications made, all students in our program are graded on the following scale: 90-100% A; 80-90% B; 70-80% C; 60-70% D. Each student has an IEP that is done each year and sent home every nine weeks with the St. Anthony report card.

5. **What is the main focus of your program (mission/philosophy)?**
   We believe all children are valued, and entitled to be treated with dignity and respect. We see the face of the Lord in each of our students. Our main goal is for the students to be as independent as possible in their community, and lead a productive life. Our program provides academics, vocational training, and a moral/spiritual foundation. In teaching these skills, we seek to foster self-respect and confidence, and develop competence in employment and community living skills.

6. **What are the most important aspects of inclusion?**
   We want our students to be with their peers as much as possible to learn alongside them, not only the academic content, but as respected equals. Peers are appropriate role models for our students, and our students represent God's love, and demonstrate perseverance, courage, and dignity.

7. **What is your curriculum?**
   The St. Anthony curriculum is made up of subject areas in reading math, social skills, inclusive class skills, and community living skills.  Our students also are able to access the school's general education curriculum in their inclusive classes.

8. **Why is vocational training so important?**
   Vocational training prepares the student for life after school.  At the high school level, our students spend a few days a week going to work sites with our job coaches.  They learn job skills such as following directions, staying on task, using appropriate social skills, being on time, asking for help, etc.

9. **The Post-Secondary Program at Duquesne - What do they do?**
   The St. Anthony School Programs at Duquesne University is a vocationally oriented program. Work-Study students act as job coaches taking our students on-site throughout campus and downtown Pittsburgh.  Mobility training is included, and they eat lunch daily in the campus cafeteria with the other college students.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE PAGE**

*NOTE:*       *Please sign and return the lower half of this form to your child's Resource Room teacher.*

### *Parent/Guardian  Signature Form*

I/We hereby acknowledge I/we have read the St. Anthony School Programs' Parent Handbook and will abide by the regulations set up for St. Anthony School Programs.

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____

Date:_____

_____

### *Parent/Guardian Signature Form*

I/We hereby acknowledge I/we have read the St. Anthony School Programs' Parent Handbook and will abide by the regulations set up for St. Anthony School Programs.

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____

Date:_____