

# Wellness Policy

## Wellness

St. Joseph Catholic School strive to educate the whole person in mind, body and soul. In educating students about the body, they strive to develop a profound reverence for the great gift of life, their own lives and the lives of others, along with readiness to spend themselves in serving all that preserves and enhances life.

The school, overseen by the St. Joseph School Board, strives to maintain a learning and working environment that promotes and protects children's health, well-being and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity.

*Archdiocesan Board of Education Policy  
#6145*

St. Joseph Catholic School supports and promotes proper dietary habits contributing to students' health status and academic performance. Foods available on school grounds and at school-sponsored activities during the instructional day should meet or exceed St. Joseph Catholic School nutrition standards. Foods should be served with consideration toward nutritional integrity, variety, appeal, taste, safety and packaging to ensure high-quality meals.

Specific Wellness Goals:

- Nutrition Education and Promotion
- Nutrition Guidelines for all Foods Available on Campus
- Physical Activity
- Implementation and Evaluation

## NUTRITION EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

St. Joseph Catholic School will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- is offered as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program, which is part not only of physical education classes, but also part of classroom instruction in other subject areas;
- includes promotion of enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits and school gardens;
- promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and physical activity;
- links with meal programs, other foods and nutrition-related community services.

# **NUTRITION GUIDELINES FOR ALL FOODS AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS**

## **General Directives**

### **Food Safety**

All foods made available on campus will follow food safety and security guidelines and comply with the state and local food safety and sanitation regulations. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plans and guidelines will continue to be implemented to prevent food illness in schools. For the safety and security of the food and facility, access to the food service operations should be limited to food service staff and authorized personnel.

### **Sharing of Foods**

St. Joseph Catholic School discourages students from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some children's diets.

### **Food Service Department**

The St. Joseph Catholic School Food Service Department will

- engage students in selecting food offered through the meal program in order to identify new, healthful and appealing food choices. Parent feedback is welcome;
- share information about the nutritional content of meals with parents and students.

### **Qualification of Food Service Staff**

Qualified nutrition professionals will administer the meal programs. As part of St. Joseph Catholic School' responsibility to operate a food service program, St. Joseph Catholic School will:

- provide continuing professional development for all nutrition professionals;
- provide staff development programs that include appropriate certification and/or training programs for managers and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility.
- provide the USDA established-continuing education hours and training for all food service employees.

## **School Meals**

### **Meals served through the National School Lunch Program will:**

- be appealing and attractive to students;
- be served in clean and pleasant settings;
- meet nutrition requirements established by local, state and federal law;
- include a variety of fruits and vegetables and menu choices.

### **Free and Reduced-Priced Meals Program**

St. Joseph Catholic School will continue to make every effort in eliminating any social stigma attached to, and in preventing the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Toward this end, St. Joseph Catholic School will:

- utilize electronic identification and payment systems;
- promote the availability of meals to all students.

### **Meal Times and Scheduling**

St. Joseph will:

- allow adequate time for students to receive and consume meals and provide a pleasant dining environment;

- schedule meal periods at appropriate times, e.g., lunch periods scheduled between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.;
- not schedule tutoring, club or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities;
- attempt to schedule lunch periods to follow recess periods;
- provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.

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## **Beverage and Food**

St. Joseph Catholic School will follow The Smart Snacks in School standards published by the USDA, building on the healthy advancements by ensuring that snack foods and beverages sold to the students in addition to those foods provided through the National School Lunch Program are also tasty and nutritious. Any food and beverage sold during the school day must meet the nutrition standards. As defined by the USDA, the school day is any time before the first bell until 30 minutes after the last bell.

### **Beverage Nutrition Standards**

- St. Joseph Catholic School may sell:
  - Plain water (with or without carbonation)
  - Sports drinks such as Gatorade and PowerAde.
- Unflavored low fat milk
  - Unflavored or flavored fat free milk and milk alternatives permitted by NSLP/SBP
  - 100% fruit or vegetable juice
  - 100% fruit or vegetable juice diluted with water (with or without carbonation), and no added sweeteners.
- St. Joseph may sell up to 12-ounce portions of milk and juice. There is no portion size limit for plain water.

### **Other Requirements**

- **Fundraisers**
  - The sale of food items that meet nutrition requirements at fundraisers is not limited in any way under the standards by the USDA.
  - The USDA standards do not apply during non-school hours, on weekends and at off-campus fundraising events. The school day as defined by the USDA is after midnight the day before the first bell until 30 minutes after the last bell.
  - The Iowa Department of Education did not provide a special exemption for infrequent fundraisers that do not meet the nutrition standards.
- **Accompaniments**
  - Accompaniments such as cream cheese, salad dressing and butter must be included in the nutrient profile as part of the food item sold.
  - This helps control the amount of calories, fat, sugar and sodium added to foods by accompaniments, which can be significant.

### **Food Nutrition Standards**

- **General Standard for Competitive Food must meet all of the proposed competitive food nutrient standards and**
  1. Be a grain product that contains 50% or more whole grains by weight or have whole grains as the first ingredient\* *or*

2. Have as the first ingredient\* one of the non-grain main food groups: fruits, vegetables, dairy, or protein foods (meat, beans, poultry, seafood, eggs, nuts, seeds, etc.) *or*
  3. Be a combination food that contains at least ¼ cup fruit and/or vegetable *or*
  4. Contain 10% of the Daily Value (DV) of a nutrient of public health concern (i.e., calcium, potassium, vitamin D, or dietary fiber). Effective July 1, 2016, this criterion is obsolete and may not be used to qualify as a competitive food.
  5. \*If water is the first ingredient, the second ingredient must be one of items 2, 3 or 4 above
- Exemptions to the Standard
    - Fresh fruits and vegetables with no added ingredients except water are exempt from all nutrient standards.
    - Canned and frozen fruits with no added ingredients except water or are packed in 100% juice, extra light syrup, or light syrup are exempt from all nutrient standards
    - Canned vegetables with no added ingredients except water or that contain a small amount of sugar for processing purposes to maintain the quality and structure of the vegetable are exempt from all nutrient standards.
  - **Sugar-free chewing gum is exempt from all competitive food standards**
  - **Grain Items - Acceptable grain items must include 50% or more whole grains by weight, or have whole grains as the first ingredient.**
  - **Total Fats**
    - Acceptable food items must have ≤ 35% calories from total fat as served.
    - Exemptions to the Standard
      - Reduced fat cheese (including part-skim mozzarella) is exempt from the total fat standard.
      - Nuts and seeds and nut/seed butters are exempt from the total fat standard.
      - Products consisting of only dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added nutritive sweeteners or fats are exempt from the total fat standard.
      - Seafood with no added fat is exempt from the total fat standard.
      - Combination products are not exempt and must meet all the nutrient standards
  - **Saturated Fats - Acceptable food items must have < 10% calories from saturated fat as served.**
    - Reduced fat cheese (including part-skim mozzarella) is exempt from the saturated fat standard.
    - Nuts and seeds and nut/seed butters are exempt from the saturated fat standard.
    - Products consisting of only dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added nutritive sweeteners or fats are exempt from the saturated fat standard.
    - Combination products are not exempt and must meet all the nutrient standards.
  - **Trans Fats - Zero grams of trans fat as served (≤ 0.5 g per portion).**
  - **Sugar - Acceptable food items must have ≤ 35% of weight from total sugar as served.**
    - Dried whole fruits or vegetables, dried whole fruit or vegetable pieces and dehydrated fruits or vegetables with no added nutritive sweeteners are exempt from the sugar standard.
    - Dried whole fruits or pieces with nutritive sweeteners that are required for processing and/or palatability purposes (i.e., cranberries, tart cherries or blueberries) are exempt from the sugar standard.

- Products consisting of only exempt dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added nutritive sweeteners or fats are exempt from the sugar standard.
- **Sodium**
  - Snack items and side dishes sold a la carte: ≤ 230 mg sodium per item as served.
  - Entrée items sold a la carte: ≤ 480 mg sodium per item as served, including any added accompaniments.
- **Calories**
  - Snack items and side dishes sold a la carte: ≤ 200 calories per item as served, including any added accompaniments.
  - Entrée items sold a la carte: ≤ 350 calories per item as served including any added accompaniments
  - Entrée items served as an NSLP or SBP entrée are exempt on the day of or day after service in the program meal.
- **Accompaniments**
  - Use of accompaniments is limited when competitive food is sold to students in school. The accompaniment must be included in the nutrient profile as part of the food item served and meet all proposed standards.

## **Special Events**

### **Snacks**

Snacks served during the school day should make a positive contribution to children’s diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and healthy beverages conforming to this policy. Schools will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of meals, children’s nutritional needs, children’s ages and other considerations. A list of healthful snack items to teachers, after-school program personnel and parents will be distributed by the food services director.

### **Rewards**

Schools are encouraged to offer nonfood forms of rewards. If food or beverage rewards are used for academic performance or good behavior, they should conform to this policy. Schools will not withhold beverages or food (including food served through meals) as a punishment.

### **Celebrations**

Schools will evaluate their celebration practices that involve beverage and food during the school day. The food used in celebration practices should make a positive contribution to children’s diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and healthy beverages conforming to this policy. A list of healthy celebration ideas is available at all schools. Treats such as cookies and cupcakes are allowed on a student’s birthday.

### **Fundraising**

To support children’s health and school nutrition-education efforts, in-school fundraising activities should use foods that meet the above nutrition and portion-size standards for beverages and foods. St. Joseph Catholic School encourages fundraising activities that promote physical activity.

## **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

Wellness education is an important and integral part of the education of students at St. Joseph Catholic School.

### **Physical Education**

St. Joseph Catholic School will provide wellness education that:

- includes students with disabilities;
- engages students in moderate to vigorous activity during at least 75 percent of physical education class time;
- meets regularly for the scheduled period of time it will allow at the elementary school level and middle school level;
- is taught by a certified physical education teacher.

### **Physical Activity Opportunities after School**

To provide opportunities for physical activity outside the regular physical education classes, the school is encouraged to:

- offer extracurricular physical activity programs, such as physical activity clubs or intramural programs (middle school);
- offer a range of activities that meet the needs, interests, and abilities of all students, including students with disabilities and students with special health-care needs;
- offer information about community agencies such as the Department of Leisure Services and the Marion Community Y to offer a maximum number of physical activity opportunities;
- publicize and promote participation in community events and programs that involve physical activity.
- Middle school students will have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports programs.

### **Physical Activity and Punishment**

Employees will not use physical activity (e.g., running laps, pushups) or routinely withhold opportunities for physical activity (e.g. recess, physical education) as punishment. Physical activity may be used as an accommodation for students demonstrating a specific need for activity.

### **Daily Recess**

St. Joseph Catholic School will offer recess for students that are preferably outdoors (criteria should be established for when indoor recess occurs). Recess should encourage moderate to vigorous physical activity verbally and through the provision of space and equipment.

St. Joseph Catholic School will discourage extended periods (i.e. periods of two or more hours) of inactivity. When activities, such as mandatory school-wide testing, make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, schools will give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

### **Integrating Physical Activity into Classroom Settings**

For students to receive the nationally recommended amount of daily physical activity and for students to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior, students need opportunities for physical activity beyond the physical education class. Toward that end, St. Joseph Catholic School will:

- offer integrated health education that complements physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically active lifestyle and to reduce time spent on sedentary activities;
- provide opportunities for physical activity to be incorporated into other subject lessons;

- encourage classroom teachers to provide short physical activity breaks during lessons or classes, as appropriate.

## **IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION**

### **Communication with Parents**

St. Joseph Catholic School will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. St. Joseph Catholic School will:

- provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities before, during and after the school day;
- support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school;

### **Staff Wellness**

St. Joseph Catholic School values the health and wellbeing of every staff member and encourages activities and policies that support personal efforts by staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

### **Monitoring**

The principal will ensure compliance with established school district-wide nutrition and physical activity wellness policies.

In St. Joseph Catholic School:

- food service staff, at the school level, will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within food service areas and will report on matter to the Food Service Director or Principal.
- St. Joseph Catholic School will report on the most recent USDA School Meals Initiative (SMI) review findings and any resulting changes. If St. Joseph Catholic School has not received a SMI review from the state agency within the past five years, St. Joseph Catholic School will request from the state agency that a SMI review be scheduled as soon as possible;

### **Policy Review**

The Principal will review the nutrition and physical activity policies and practices and the provision of an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity at the end of the school year. St. Joseph Catholic School will revise the wellness policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation.