

DANIEL J. GROSS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Student Handbook 2008-2009

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WELCOME TO DANIEL J. GROSS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

This Student Handbook is provided for informational purposes only, and does not in any manner constitute a contractual agreement between Gross Catholic High School and any student (or any parent of any student). Any information contained in this Handbook provides a general description of rules and regulations. Gross Catholic High School follows the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and reserves the right to add to, modify, or abolish the enclosed rules and regulations at any time, with or without notice. Nonenforcement of any of the enclosed rules and regulations shall not act as a waiver of their future enforcement. This Handbook does not create any restriction upon Gross Catholic High's right to institute any course of disciplinary action which, in Gross Catholic High's sole discretion, it believes is necessary and consistent with its Catholic and educational mission.

HISTORY

In the late 60's Archbishop Bergan wanted to build an Archdiocesan high school to accommodate the needs of the Catholic communities of northern Sarpy County and southwest Omaha. He invited the Marianist Priests and Brothers and the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help to bring their religious charisms to Omaha. Today the mission of education is continued by a very dedicated group of Christian lay women and men, and Diocesan clergy.

The late Daniel J. Gross, a prominent Catholic Omaha attorney, died in the 1960's. He and his wife, Louise Ortman Gross, had always been firm supporters of Catholic education. Mrs. Gross donated a substantial financial gift for the building of the new high school. In gratitude, the

school was named after her late husband. On August 10, 1967, the late Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan blessed the cornerstone of a new Catholic high school for the Archdiocese of Omaha. On September 3, 1968, that school opened its doors to a freshman class of 175 students. In 1968, few people outside the immediate vicinity knew about the Cougar family, Cougar pride or Cougar spirit. Today, the name of Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School is synonymous with Christian Community, academic excellence, athletic achievement, and a tradition of outstanding school spirit and pride.

As of March 18, 2004, Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School officially became sponsored by the Marianist Province of the United States. We are dedicated to promoting the five characteristics of Marianist education.

They are:

- Educate for formation in faith
- Provide an integral, quality education
- Educate in family spirit
- Educate for service, justice, and peace
- Educate for adaptation and change

MARIANIST PRAYERS

Marianist Doxology

May the Father and the Son
And the Holy Spirit
Be glorified in all places
Through the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

Three O'Clock Prayer

Lord Jesus,
We gather in the spirit at the foot of the Cross
With your Mother and the disciple whom you loved.
We ask your pardon for our sins
Which are the cause of your death.
We thank you for remembering us
In that hour of salvation
And for giving us Mary as your Mother.
Holy Virgin, take us under your protection
And open us to the action of the Holy Spirit.

Saint John, obtain for us the grace of taking
Mary in our lives as you did,
And of assisting her in her mission.

May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be
Glorified in all places through the
Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.

MISSION STATEMENT

Daniel J. Gross High School is a faith and family based community committed to developing Christian leaders through educational excellence in the Marianist tradition.

MOTTO

Dux Esto, the school motto, means "Be a Leader." Students are challenged, encouraged and entrusted with a variety of responsibilities through which they can grow intellectually, spiritually, athletically, emotionally and socially.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Any student failing two or more courses for a semester will be placed on academic probation. If, at the end of the next semester, the student continues to receive a failing grade, and/or is not making reasonable progress towards graduation, continuation at Gross Catholic High School will be evaluated.

ACTIVITIES

At Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School, every student has the opportunity and is encouraged to have a balanced school program. All Freshmen are required to participate in a fall sport or activity.

Numerous activities are available including clubs, service organizations, sports, spirit activities and fine arts productions. Students must be at school for a minimum of six periods on the day of a practice, activity, athletic performance, or competition in order to participate.

ACTIVITIES

Academic Decathlon
Art Club
Bowling
Cheerleading
Chess Team
Chorus/Liturgical Singers
Concert Band
Drama
Engineering Team
Flag Corps
Freshman Spirit Squad
Intramurals
Jazz Band
Knitting Club
L.I.F.E. Team
(continued on page 12)

ATHLETICS

Boys' Interscholastic Competition

Cross Country
Football
Tennis
Basketball
Swimming
Wrestling
Baseball
Golf
Soccer
Track

Girls' Interscholastic Competition

Cross Country
Golf
Softball

Musical	Volleyball
Pastoral Council	Basketball
Science Club	Swimming
Speech Team	Golf
Student Council	Soccer
Swing Choir	Track
Teen Reading Club	
Trap Shooting	

Each year awards are presented from the River Cities Conference to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors in athletics and activities who had a 3.5 GPA in the semester prior to their activity or a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.

ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY

A student's eligibility for extracurricular activities will be determined by using the mid-quarter, quarter, and semester reports.

****Students will be affected only during their sports/activity season.****
Ineligibility Process:

Students with an F or more than one D, will be required to do the following to stay eligible:

1. Attend a mandatory study hall to be scheduled during the day. A student will remain in the study hall until the next grade report is released.
2. Weekly progress reports will be completed on Thursday of each week and signed by parent(s). If the student does not receive a progress report from their first period teacher, it is the student's responsibility to pick up a progress report from the guidance center.
3. The reports will be submitted to the Activities Director on **Friday** of that same week for evaluation of the student's eligibility. All reports must be signed by **ALL** parties and turned in **no later than 7:40 a.m. Friday**.
4. If, and only if, a teacher is absent on the day the progress reports are being signed by teachers, then a student may turn in progress reports **no**

later than 12:30 p.m. Friday.

The following constitutes a poor weekly progress report:

- A combination of any 3 NO's in either Homework, Behavior or Grade Improvement column
- A report not signed by an instructor or parent when turned in on time
- A report not turned in on time or not turned in at all

One poor weekly progress report: The student has until the end of the following week to show improvement in the categories on a weekly progress report. These include estimated grade for the week, completed work and class behavior.

Two consecutive poor weekly progress reports: The student is declared ineligible for game participation the entire 3rd week or until the student has earned a good progress report.

- If a student follows the first poor weekly progress report with a good weekly progress report the second week the student remains eligible.
- If the student follows the first poor weekly progress report with a second poor weekly progress report, the student will be declared by the Activities Director, ineligible for all game participation when the student submits his or her progress report. The student will remain ineligible until he or she submits a good progress report.
- A week consists of Sunday to Sunday.
- Whatever the student's eligibility status, the student is still able to practice with the team or activity. However, if a student is ineligible for that week and the team is dismissed from school, he or she will not be allowed to leave early with the team.
- If the student does not make up missed time by Friday the student will receive a poor weekly progress report for that week.

ALL RESULTS FROM THE PREVIOUS SEMESTER WILL CARRY OVER TO THE FOLLOWING SEMESTER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

In all cases the Gross Catholic High School Administration reserves the right to determine what constitutes eligibility.

ADMISSION

Gross Catholic High School admits students of any color, national and ethnic origins to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities,

generally accorded or made available to students at this school. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. Students must have completed the 8th grade and agree to adhere to the inherent principles of a Catholic high school.

ADVISORY PROGRAM

The purpose of the Advisory Program is to ensure that each student and family has a teacher-advocate should questions or concerns arise, and to help students develop the feeling that they are truly a part of Gross Catholic High School.

During a 13-minute period after 2nd hour, students will meet with their advisor. Advisory is considered class time and class attendance rules apply.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

The possession or use of alcohol, drugs or inhalants during the school day, at any school activity or at any function resulting in a citation or arrest, will, at the point of citation or arrest, incur the following:

- immediate suspension from school
- parents/guardian are notified
- probation contract
- an alcohol/drug evaluation

The evaluation must be completed at a mutually agreed upon treatment center for chemical dependency. The family will be responsible for the cost of the evaluation, and the student must follow the recommendation.

If the administration has reason to believe that a student is involved in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol, the administration will follow the above policy.

If a student involved in activities or athletics is cited or arrested or tests positive on a breathalyzer test for the illegal use of alcohol or drugs, that student will be suspended for a minimum of 10% of the season's total scheduled competitions or the next non-athletic performance, whichever applies.

Students must comply with this policy to remain at Gross Catholic High School and readmittance to school is not automatic and is determined only after a parent conference with the student and administrator.

Any students involved in the distribution or sale of drugs, inhalants, or alcohol during the school day or at any school activity or function will be immediately dismissed from school with no possibility of readmission.

If there is reason to suspect that a student is in possession of or is observed selling or transferring suspected illegal drugs on school property, an administrator will notify the parents and the proper authorities.

Any item recovered which is suspected to be an illicit drug will be turned over to authorities for analysis. The above applies to all placebos or "look alike drugs," as well as drug paraphernalia.

Students hosting parties where drugs and alcohol are used by minors are subject to expulsion.

When school authorities have reasonable cause to believe or suspect a student is under the influence of alcohol at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity or event based on the student's observed conduct, demeanor, appearance or speech, the student will be required to submit a breathalyzer test. School authorities will also randomly submit breathalyzer tests to students at school functions. This also includes students who are not Gross Catholic students. If the test discloses the student to be under the influence of alcohol to any degree or extent, the student will remain with the school authority until the parents arrive and take custody. If the parents are unavailable, another adult member of the student's family may represent the parents. If no adult can be reached or

if the situation warrants, the school official may turn the student over to law enforcement authorities. Once the student tests positive for alcohol, school officials will follow the alcohol policy as written in the student handbook.

It is appropriate that school officials, law enforcement, and families work together to help students avoid drugs and alcohol. The Gross Catholic administration will enforce our policies according to the information provided by law enforcement, parents and others.

ASSEMBLIES

Since school assemblies are looked upon as celebrations of who we are as a Christian community, all students are expected to attend. Appropriate behavior for the assembly is expected. Skipping an assembly will be considered the same as skipping a class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Daily attendance is an integral part of the learning experience and is required of all students to receive the maximum benefit of the educational program. Students shall not be absent more than eight days in any semester.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to see that the child attends school and to inform the school of each and every absence. It is the responsibility of the school to notify the parent/guardian on each occurrence of an unverified absence.

Students must be at school for a minimum of six periods on the day of a practice, activity, athletic performance, or competition in order to participate.

Attendance Procedures

1. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are expected to notify the school regarding a student's absence on the day of the absence. An absence must be

reported by phone call between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Students who were absent from school for **any reason** shall submit IN WRITTEN FORM (phone calls will not be acceptable) the specific reasons for their absence, the specific days or times they were absent, verification by the doctor or dentist (where appropriate), and a signature of the parent/guardian. In order to return to school following an absence the written verification must be presented upon readmission. No doctor's notes will be accepted at any time other than upon the student's return to school. Once the student has turned in the note/s at the main office they will be given a readmittance slip. No student will be admitted to their first period class without a readmittance slip.

2. Absences for the following reasons may be waived:
 - a. extended illness or hospitalization;
 - b. death in the family or family emergency; and
 - c. court appearance or other legal situation beyond the control of the family.
3. Classes missed because of attendance at a school sponsored trip or activity will not be recorded as absences. However, the student will be required to make up work missed.

First Period Tardies

A student who is late for first period any morning must first report to the office for a tardy slip. If a student is tardy to first period a fifth time in a quarter, regardless of whether the tardiness is excused or not, that student will be required to report to room 210 at the beginning of their lunch period. If tardiness to first period becomes chronic the student may be suspended from school.

Tardiness beyond 8:00 a.m. in the morning will constitute an unexcused absence for the first class period.

All Other Tardies

1. Tardiness is defined as a student's initial appearance in a class at any time after the designated starting time. Tardiness of more than ten minutes to a class will be considered an absence.

2. All incidences of class tardiness will be the responsibility of the teacher. Teachers will emphasize the importance of being on time and explain the classroom rules and procedures for tardies. The tardy sanctions should be consistently applied and should be sequential. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to: warning, teacher-monitored detention, parent contact and administrative referral.

3. If, for some reason, a teacher is not in class when the class is to begin, one of the students is to report to the office and verify if the class will meet. All other students are to remain in the classroom until instructed otherwise.

Truancy

1. Truancy is defined as any absence from school or an assigned class or classes without parent/guardian and school permission.

2. Class work missed because of truancy can be made up and treated the same as make-up work for all other absences.

3. Incidents of truancy will be recorded as part of a student's attendance record and will count toward the limit of eight allowable absences per semester.

3. Any student truant from any one class will serve three detentions and parents will be notified. If truancy becomes chronic the student may be suspended from school.

Excessive Absence

1. Excessive absence is any absence beyond eight days per semester.

2. When a student has been absent from school/class five times

(days/class periods) during a given semester, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified via mail or phone regarding the student's absence record.

3. The student will be dropped from any class upon the ninth (9th) absence and a grade of "F" will be issued.

4. The student will be dropped from the regular school day when the ninth (9th) absence causes them to become a part-time student.

Readmittance Process

1. When notified that the student has been dropped from a class or school, the student and parent/guardian may request, within two school days, a meeting with school personnel to determine readmittance. **Should the request not be made within two school days, the student will be permanently dropped from class/school.**

2. Following removal from class/school the student will remain in class/school pending completion of the readmittance process.

3. The conference for readmittance must be attended by the student, parent/guardian, an administrator, and may also include attendance personnel and a counselor.

4. The following will be considered in making a readmittance decision:

- absences caused by documented chronic or extended illness, hospitalization, family death or emergency, emergency medical or dental care, court appearances or other legal situations beyond the control of the family
- attendance history of the student
- extenuating circumstances
- educational alternatives to removal from class or school
- the total educational program for each individual student

BOOK BAGS

Book bags must be stored in lockers during the school day. Only laptop cases may be carried by students. A two-strapped backpack can not be used as a laptop bag.

CELL PHONES/MUSIC PLAYERS

Students are responsible for any disruptions caused by cell phones, music players, and other electronic devices during the school day. If used inappropriately these items may be confiscated, detentions may be issued, or suspension may result.

CHILD CUSTODY

Gross Catholic is utilizing the following procedures concerning child custody. Any questions concerning documents need to be directed to the main office.

In case one parent asks that the child not be allowed to leave the school with the other parent, a custody paper, restraining order, or other legal document should be in the child's folder at school.

Legal opinion states that either parent has equal rights to child unless one of the above legal documents have been issued.

CLASS DISMISSAL DUE TO DISCIPLINARY REASONS

Any student dismissed from class for disciplinary reasons must immediately report to the office and remain there until seen by an administrator. Parents will be notified by the faculty member.

CLASS FAILURES

Failures in required courses are generally made up by repeating the courses at Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School, however, a maximum number of two credits taken outside of Gross Catholic will be accepted.

CLASS LOAD

The required class load for freshmen, sophomores and juniors is seven (7) classes per semester and seven credits per year. All seniors are required to be enrolled in six (6) classes per semester and six (6) credits per year.

Each student may choose to take more than the required class load. Time within a student's day which is unscheduled may be spent in the media center, the commons and/or the computer labs.

COMMONS

The commons is designed as a place for all students to have time to study together, relax and socialize. It is an area used by students throughout the school day and after school for various activities. All students are responsible for keeping the commons clean and orderly.

Students choosing to spend time in the commons should be there by the time the class bell rings, and should remain there for the entire time.

COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY USE

The computer areas are available for student use when supervised or with permission. However, when these areas have been reserved for a class those students are given priority.

Students are expected to make appropriate use of technology as it relates to the school environment. This includes, but is not limited to, the type of information accessed, its language and its intent. Willful destruction of computer-created projects, the downloading of dangerous or harmful

materials or misuse of computer knowledge may result in suspension or expulsion.

In monitoring the student use of technology, both on and off campus, some situations may warrant administrative involvement.

DANCES AND SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

School dances and sock hops, other than Homecoming, Prom and Gnimocemoh are for Gross Catholic High students only. Students who bring a guest must follow appropriate procedures. Prom is restricted to juniors and seniors.

Dances usually begin at 9:00 and end at 11:30. Sock hops begin immediately after sporting events and end at 11:30. All students are expected to arrive at the dances/sock hops within one hour of the start time. Once a student leaves a dance they may not return.

Appropriate behavior is expected. Anyone whose conduct is not appropriate may be asked to leave. Students are expected to dress modestly, in moderation, and in good taste.

All students must have a Gross Catholic I.D. in order to enter the dances/sock hops. The school is not responsible for misplaced or lost personal items, and it is therefore recommended that girls not bring purses into the building.

DRESS CODE

The dress code at Gross Catholic High School allows the student to express important individuality within a dignified Catholic atmosphere.

The Dress Code is as follows:

1. Any tan or khaki dress pant. This will not include any type of cargo, capri, denim, painter, athletic, wind, hip huggers, baggy, bell bottoms, or olive green pants. Pants must have belt loops

and can be purchased at any store.

2. Any solid long/short sleeve **orange, blue, white, uniform** style polo/golf shirt. The orange and blue polo must be purchased through Dennis Uniform Company. White polos may be purchased at any store as long as they are similar in design and fit to the orange and blue polo. Students may wear activity/athletic team polos (activity polos must be any solid long/short sleeve **orange, blue, white uniform** style polo/golf shirt). Students must tuck in their shirts for all liturgies and, at times, may be asked to tuck in their shirts for special events.

3. Any type of footwear is acceptable, as long as it is neat. Beach shoes of any kind are not acceptable.

4. Any accessories must be appropriate to the outfit and within modest contemporary standards. Unacceptable accessories include, but are not limited to, hats, facial jewelry, chain wallets, excessive jewelry, wristbands...

5. Hair styles and color must be commensurate with modest contemporary standards. Young men must be clean-shaven.

6. T-shirts worn beneath the polo must be tucked in and may not be visible below the polo or under the sleeves. Writing or designs on T-shirts may not be visible.

7. All clothing must be clean and in good repair. Students are not allowed to wear ripped, tattered, torn, cut, or dirty uniforms. In all cases, the Gross Catholic High School administration reserves the right to determine what constitutes proper dress code in the spirit of its intent and in accordance with good tastes and modest contemporary standards for a Catholic high school.

8. **Optional:** Any navy blue V-neck, cardigan, crew neck sweater, sweater vest, or a Gross Catholic sweatshirt. All activity/athletic sweatshirts must be approved by the Gross Catholic administration. Colors are limited to orange, blue, white, gray, or black. All optional

sweatshirts and sweaters must be worn over the polo.

9. **Optional:** Young women may choose to wear a traditional khaki skirt purchased from the Dennis Uniform Company

In all cases, the Gross Catholic High School administration reserves the right to determine what constitutes proper dress code in the spirit of its intent and in accordance with good taste and modest contemporary standards for a Catholic high school.

DRESS UP DAYS

To encourage school spirit, we occasionally have special dress days. Guidelines for these days will be announced and are expected to be followed. The school administration reserves the right to determine what is appropriate.

DROPPING A CLASS

Any student who withdraws from a course before the sixth week of a semester will receive a "WP" (Withdraw Passing) or "WF" (Withdraw Failing). A "WP" or "WF" does not affect the student's GPA; however, it is reported on the student's transcript.

Any student who withdraws from a course after the sixth week of the semester will receive an "F" for the course and it will be factored into the student's GPA.

FIGHTING

Students involved in violence will be automatically expelled and the parents may request a meeting with the appropriate administrator to determine the possibility of readmittance.

FIRE/SAFETY DRILLS

Safety drills are held during the school year and require everyone's cooperation. When the alarm sounds, students will leave the building in silence following the proper route to a safe area. Teachers are the last to leave the classrooms. Exit the building as quickly and quietly as possible. If a student should accidentally sound the fire alarm, that person should report it to the office immediately. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from school. Pranks regarding the use of the fire alarms will result in dismissal.

FUNERAL POLICY

If a student wishes to attend a funeral during the school day, a note from a parent must be submitted to the main office before school begins the day of the funeral. Phone calls from parents will not be accepted. Students are to return to school after the funeral. It is not appropriate for students to stay for a luncheon unless they are personally invited. In order to stay for a luncheon, students must have prior written approval from their parents.

GRADING SYSTEM

Credit will be given as follows for courses designated Honors or A.P. Courses:

A = 5 Honor Points; B = 4 Honor Points;
C = 3 Honor Points; D = 1 Point

Honor and Advanced Placement Courses are: English 2-Honors, English 3-Honors, Advanced Placement English 4, Pre-Calculus Honors, Advanced Placement Calculus, World History Honors, Advanced Placement American Government, Advanced Placement American History, Advanced Placement Statistics, Advanced Placement Spanish 5, Advanced Placement Physics, Advanced Placement Statistics, Advanced Placement Computer Science, Advanced Placement Biology, Advanced Placement Chemistry, Network Design & Management 1 Honors, Network Design & Management 2 Honors

All other courses receive credit as follows:

A = 4 Points; B = 3 Points; C = 2 Points;

D = 1 Point

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

Each student is assigned an academic counselor. Students may make an appointment to meet with any of the counselors anytime throughout the year.

The Guidance department is responsible for academic progress, testing, career counseling, college placement, and personal counseling.

Counselors:

Mr. Hargis – Guidance Director

10th & 11th Grade

Mr. Dempsey – 9th Grade/Careers

Mr. McClure - College Counseling

Ms. Schow – 12th Grade/College Counseling

GYMNASIUMS

Students are allowed in the gyms only with an authorized supervisor.

HARASSMENT

Harassment is behavior or words that:

- Are uninvited, unwanted, and unwelcome
- Cause a person to feel uncomfortable or offended
- Create an environment that makes learning difficult

Any student being harassed is strongly encouraged to report the harassment to a counselor or administrator. Any student found to be harassing another will be subject to disciplinary measures.

HEALTH POLICY

If a student becomes ill during the school day, a parent will be notified and the student will be sent home. Special consideration may be given to a student with a diagnosed health problem, verified by a physician's note. In the interest of the health of others, students are asked to remain at home when they have a contagious illness.

Non-prescription medications, such as aspirin or Tylenol, will not be dispensed by the school nurse or other school personnel. The school takes no responsibility for medications self-administered by a student. If a student must take a prescribed medication during the school day, the school nurse should be informed and the medication should be brought to school in the original container labeled by the pharmacy, and the proper medication form must be completed. In other special situations, the guidelines established by the Nebraska Department of Health will be followed.

If a student becomes ill and therefore must miss a class, that student must report to the office or the absence from class will be considered a skipped class. In such cases, parents will be called and the student will be sent home.

In compliance with Rule 59, Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School has adopted an "Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions Protocol" and is equipped to implement the protocol while school is in session in the case of any student and/or school staff member.

Protocol:

- 911 is called first
- EP/Pen injection is given
- Albuteral is provided through a nebulizer

Parents must provide to the school staff for students having a known allergic condition or asthma:

- Written medical documentation
- Instructions
- Medications as directed by a physician

School health screening is not diagnostic nor is it intended to replace regular preventive health care. The goal is to assist parents in the identification of potential health problems so they may seek appropriate medical evaluation. Ninth grade health screening includes: height/weight, vision, hearing, and blood pressure. Students may be screened upon the request of a parent or teacher at any time. A copy of the student's birth certificate is required during registration.

HONOR ROLL

High honors will be awarded to students maintaining a 3.75-4.0+ average. Honors will be awarded to students maintaining a 3.25-3.74 average. No D's, F's, or U's are permitted for either honor.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

I.D. cards are issued at the beginning of the school year. I.D.s issued at any other time during the year will cost the student \$10.00. I.D.'s are used for admission to home and away games and sock hops. I.D.'s must be presented at these events or the full cost of admission must be paid.

LAPTOP PROGRAM POLICIES

All students are eligible for the laptop program. All laptop students and parents are required to sign a policy and guideline form in order to participate in the laptop program. Laptops for the program are either purchased through the school in June or individuals can purchase a laptop on their own as long as they meet strict requirements.

LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE DAY

When it is necessary for students to leave school during the day, they

should report to the office before first hour to make arrangements. Students should have a note from a parent specifying the reason for leaving and the time the student is to be dismissed from school. Students with permission to leave must check out in the office before leaving, and must check back in when returning.

Any student leaving the school building without permission at any time during the school day prior to official dismissal, will be subject to disciplinary action.

LITURGIES

The celebration of sacraments, liturgies, and prayer experiences are central to our mission at Gross Catholic. Appropriate conduct and active participation is expected. If a student is asked to leave a liturgical celebration parents will be notified and the student will be subject to disciplinary action.

LOCKERS

Lockers are provided for students' personal use. These lockers are considered the property of Gross Catholic and may be searched at any time.

Each student is assigned a locker and is responsible for its upkeep. Any necessary repairs should be reported to the office immediately. Repair costs due to abuse will be assessed to individual students. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure no one else knows their locker combination. Students should not reveal combinations to others, should keep lockers locked, and valuable items should be left at home. Lockers should be emptied and cleaned before final exams.

LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found area is in the main office. If an item is lost, please check with the receptionist. If an item is found, please turn it in at the main desk. Unclaimed items will be given to charity at the end of each

semester.

MARRIAGE POLICY

The mission and purpose of Gross Catholic is not consistent with accommodating married students. Students are required to live with a parent or legal guardian. Therefore, any student who marries will be required to leave school and complete his/her education elsewhere or by other means.

MEDIA TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The Media Technology Center is a place for research and quiet study. Appropriate behavior is expected.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society, founded in 1921, was created to recognize students for their academic achievement, service, leadership, and character. Gross Catholic has been a chartered member of the National Honor Society since 1971 and is identified as the Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan Chapter. Membership is open to juniors and seniors. Selection is based on the following criteria:

- Minimum 3.25 cumulative grade point average
- Three verified leadership roles (elected, appointed, or voluntary participation or membership in school organizations, community organizations, community organizations, or church groups)
- Good standing with the Dux Esto Program
- Three faculty endorsements
- One five-paragraph theme
- Willingness to continue to serve the Gross Catholic community

OFF-CAMPUS SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

The same norms and guidelines that apply at school, apply to off-campus school functions.

PARKING /PARKING LOT

Any car brought to school, even if occasionally, must be registered with the business office. A general registration will take place on book nights. Parking permits will be issued at that time. Cars without permits, or outside the designated parking lines will incur a \$25.00 fine. Unpaid fines will be added to the student's book bill.

Throughout the year, any additions or changes concerning cars brought to school will be handled by the business office. Students and parents should note that the entrances into the parking lots from Margo Street are one way.

Reckless driving on school property will result in loss of driving privileges. Students should not drive through St. Bernadette's when leaving school.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Empowering people to answer the call to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today, the pastoral ministry at Gross Catholic is the foundation of our school community. Students, faculty, and staff are collectively responsible for the participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community. A council of students meets regularly with the campus minister to plan, organize and facilitate faith sharing activities, liturgies, prayer services, Christian service opportunities, and social events. Open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and rooted in our Marianist tradition, all members of the Gross Catholic community are encouraged to grow in leadership and discipleship offering the Gospel message to others through the witness of faith in action, community and family spirit, and Christian service. Sacramental ministry and spiritual counseling are offered under the guidance of our campus priest/chaplain.

Campus Ministry provides an opportunity for current members of the Cougar family to be actively involved in the pastoral life of our community. Specific activities include: preparation for and celebration of all-school liturgies, prayer services and reconciliation services, morning prayer, the

three o'clock prayer, the rosary and stations of the cross, service projects, student socials, and the design and maintenances of the Campus Ministry bulletin board. Juniors and seniors actively involved in Campus Ministry may also apply to serve the community as Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and retreat leaders.

Pastoral Council is the administrative body of Campus Ministry responsible for the coordination, organization, and execution of all Campus Ministry activities. Pastoral Council is comprised of active Campus Ministry members who have been nominated and elected by their peers in Campus Ministry. The Director of Campus Ministry has complete and final discretion regarding the election and tenure of Pastoral Council Members.

Marianist Life Team is a small community of disciples committed to Mary's mission of bringing Christ to the world. Rooted in community, sacraments and prayer, we are called to grow in faith and to build and strengthen our Marianist family.

Apostolic Outreach is a program committed to developing leaders in the Marianist tradition. Gross Catholic provides a program of apostolic outreach that seeks to educate students for service, justice and peace through the offering of their time, talent and treasure in service of God and their neighbor. Each Gross Catholic student will offer service to their parish, the wider church, the Gross Catholic community, and the local community.

PLAGIARISM

Students are expected to do their own work. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Each teacher may establish their own classroom guidelines in this regard.

PREGNANCY POLICY

Gross Catholic is a pro-life institution and is deeply committed to the belief that life begins at conception. Therefore, any student who becomes

pregnant will be encouraged to carry the baby to full term. Administration, guidance personnel, parents, and the couple will pursue all the options for counseling and for completing the student's education.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF AFFECTION

Public expression of affection during the school day is inappropriate.

READMISSION POLICY

Any student who is returning to school after an extended period of time due to treatment, from any place which offered alternative education programs during treatment (such as hospitals, treatment centers, clinics, etc.), must request that the institution releasing the student provides a staffing for the appropriate personnel at Gross Catholic High School so that we may facilitate academic progress and/or rehabilitation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

The school year is divided into four quarters; progress reports are mailed during the fifth week of the quarter and report cards are mailed at the end of each quarter.

Graduation requirements are as follows:

Theology	4.0
English	4.0
Math	3.0
Life Science (includes Biology, Advanced Biology, AP Biology, Global Science, Anatomy/ Physiology)	1.0
Earth Science (includes Physical Science, Global Science, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics, AP Physics)	1.0
Science Elective (listed above)	1.0
World History	1.0
American History	1.0
American Government	0.5
Social Studies Elective (includes World Geography, Sociology, Psychology, Criminal Justice)	0.5
Physical Education	1.0
Speech	0.5
Technology (includes Technology, Intro to Journalism, Intro to Web Page)	0.5
Electives	5.5
Total Required Credits	24.5
Apostolic Outreach Program (hours required)	
Freshmen	20
Sophomores	25
Juniors	30
Seniors	35

All obligations for Seniors must be met by the designated day, prior to

graduation in order to participate in graduation practice. This does not apply to tuition payments that will be automatically withdrawn in May.

RETREATS

Each year, Gross Catholic High School students are required to attend one of the Gross Catholic retreats regardless of their religious belief and experience. Retreats offered at Gross Catholic are rooted in the Catholic Christian faith and seen as a vital part of each student's religious formation. Retreats will provide all with a sense of belonging, as together we celebrate sacraments, create community, pray, worship, listen, share faith, examine, reflect, challenge, and respond to Christ in our lives. It is our hope that all students, Catholic and non-Catholic will use this opportunity to enhance their own spirituality.

SCHEDULE CHANGE

After a student has completed the registration process, there will be \$10.00 "change of schedule fee" payable at the time of the requested change unless the change is advised through mutual consent by the school and the student.

SCHEDULES

REGULAR SCHEDULE

46 minute classes

7:28	7:40	News & Prayer
7:40	8:26	Period 1
8:30	9:16	Period 2
9:20	9:33	Advisory
9:37	10:23	Period 3
10:27	11:13	Period 4
11:17	11:42	Lunch A
11:42	12:28	Period 5 A
11:17	12:03	Period 5 B
12:03	12:28	Lunch B
12:32	1:18	Period 6
1:22	2:08	Period 7
2:12	2:58	Period 8

LATE START SCHEDULE

40 minute classes-no advisory

7:30	8:40	Faculty Meeting
8:44	9:24	Period 1
9:28	10:08	Period 2
10:12	10:52	Period 3
10:56	11:36	Period 4
11:40	12:05	Lunch A
12:05	12:45	Period 5 A
11:40	12:20	Period 5 B
12:20	12:45	Lunch B
12:49	1:29	Period 6
1:33	2:13	Period 7
2:17	2:57	Period 8

MORNING ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE
40 minute classes

7:28	7:40	News & Prayer
7:40	8:20	Period 1
8:24	9:04	Period 2
9:08	10:08	Assembly/Mass
10:12	10:52	Period 3
10:56	11:36	Period 4
11:40	12:05	Lunch A
12:05	12:45	Period 5 A
11:40	12:20	Period 5 B
12:20	12:45	Lunch B
12:49	1:29	Period 6
1:33	2:13	Period 7
2:17	2:57	Period 8

PEP RALLY SCHEDULE
43 minute classes-no advisory

7:28	7:40	News & Prayer
7:40	8:23	Period 1
8:27	9:10	Period 2
9:14	9:57	Period 3
10:01	10:44	Period 4
10:48	11:13	Lunch A
11:13	11:56	Period 5 A
10:48	11:31	Period 5 B
11:31	11:56	Lunch B
12:00	12:43	Period 6
12:47	1:30	Period 7
1:34	2:17	Period 8
2:21	2:57	Pep Rally

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE

Gross Catholic High School reports scholarships won by seniors to the Omaha World-Herald and the Bellevue Leader for publication. Scholarships are listed in the graduation bulletin and announced and listed for Recognition Day. Copies of award letters should be given to the Guidance Office as they are received. To avoid any misunderstanding, students and parents should ask for written verification from all scholarship providers. Verbal offers and pre-award scholarship letters will not be listed. Students must have applied to the college and been accepted for the scholarship to be listed.

SCHOOL CLOSING

Local television and radio stations will broadcast any school closings. Please do not call the school.

SEMESTER EXAMS/ASSESSMENTS

Semester exams/assessments are given in all courses. A special time will be scheduled for semester exams or major project evaluations. Exceptions may be granted by the administration.

SPORTSMANSHIP

As a member school of the Nebraska School Activities Association, we endorse the following NSAA sportsmanship code. All participants and fans should:

- Remember high school sports are a part of the educational process
- Maintain self control at all times
- Show support and enthusiasm by cheering your team - not degrading the opponent
- Applaud the outstanding performances of all athletes
- Know, understand and appreciate the rules of the contest
- Respect the effort and decisions of contest officials
- Shirts must be worn at all activities
- Newspapers and other reading material may not be displayed during

- player introductions
- Students who exhibit poor sportsmanship by way of inappropriate chants, cheers, and/or actions may be asked to leave the game

At no time are cheers, posters or spontaneous reactions to contain profanity, profane innuendo, sexual connotations or a denigration of our opponent.

When in attendance at athletic events that are held outside of Gross Catholic High School, students must still follow all rules, procedures and regulations set by the school.

Students not following these rules may be asked to leave by Gross Catholic High School personnel.

In all cases, the Gross Catholic High School administration reserves the right to determine what constitutes good sportsmanship .

STEALING

Any stealing, possession, acceptance, or buying or selling of stolen goods at school will not be tolerated. A student who fails in this regard is subject to expulsion from school.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council is composed of representatives from the sophomore, junior, and senior classes who are elected in the spring of the previous school year. The student council executive council consists of two representatives from the sophomore, junior, and senior classes. The senior with the highest number of votes is elected president of the student council and serves as the student body president. The student council serves as the coordinating group for spirit and social events offered at Gross Catholic.

STUDENT RECORDS

Student records are considered confidential and contain standardized test scores, general background information, and the student's grades.

STUDY HALL

Students who have an F or more than one D at the end of any grading period will be placed in a mandatory study hall during their free period. Study hall is considered class time and class attendance rules apply. Other students whose academic program may benefit from a study hall may be placed in a study hall by their counselor.

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL

A student may be suspended for a period of time or, if the situation warrants, expelled from the school community. Offenses which warrant suspension from school are handled by an administrator and re-admission requires a conference with the student, at least one parent, and the administrator. Students suspended from school are readmitted on probationary status.

In a case of expulsion, the student and parent(s) may appeal the expulsion to the president. The president's decision is final.

As a general rule, when a student is suspended, teachers will keep a copy of any worksheets or handouts for the student. These will be given to the student upon his/her return to school. In the case of suspension, the school does not gather work from teachers. The suspended student may be assisted by fellow classmates if such arrangements are made by the students.

A student who is suspended from school is not allowed to participate in any school activities or be on school property during the suspension.

The following are grounds for suspension or expulsion from Gross Catholic High School:

1. Evidence of possession of drugs or alcohol with a reasonable suspicion of intent to sell or distribute.
2. Identification by law enforcement as being an active participant in a gang involved in illegal activities.
3. Willful destruction to property, malicious vandalism and/or arson.
4. Willful destruction of computer-created projects or the downloading of dangerous or harmful materials.
5. Consistent and recurring violation of school policy, regulations and truancy.
6. Serious misconduct which interferes with the legal and personal rights of others, particularly a right to an education, and which presents a danger to the health, safety, welfare and esteem of any person in the school or at school activities.
7. The commission of any crime on school property or during a school sponsored event including, but not inclusive, theft, assault, possession of controlled substances, et. al. Such crimes will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
8. Consistent and recurring insubordination.
9. Any other good and sufficient grounds rendering the attendance of the student offensive to the educational, spiritual and social program of the school which results or may result in a disruptive influence on the educational, spiritual or social program, the student or school personnel.

Any crime committed on school property or at a school sponsored function will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
A student who has been expelled from Gross Catholic for any reason other than academics will not be readmitted.

TOBACCO USE

Tobacco use, in the building, on the premises, or at any school-sponsored activity on or off school property carries with it the following penalties:

- 1st offense \$35.00 fine and 3 hours detention time
- 2nd offense \$70.00 fine and suspension results until a parent conference is held.

Fines must be paid within one week or suspension may result.

Students are not to be in possession of tobacco, lighters, cigarette packages or chewing tins. Confiscation will result and this will be considered a violation subject to the above penalties.

TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts are the permanent records of all semester grades and college entrance test scores. These include grades, grade point averages, class rank, credits earned, attendance figures, and standardized test scores. This record is the property of the school and a copy may be requested by the student. Official transcripts will be prepared and released only by mutual consent from the student and/or legal guardian and school officials. Transcripts contain only information regarding the academic assessment of a student.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

As a general rule, Gross Catholic High School will accept transfer students if the following criteria is met:

1. Students moving to Omaha from out of town
 - Any family who moves to the Omaha area may enroll their children at any time if an appropriate academic program can be designed.

2. Students transferring from an Omaha area metro high school
 - Transfers may enroll only at a natural break in the school calendar (i.e., beginning of year, beginning of a semester).
 - Student must be making reasonable progress towards graduation as defined by requirements completed and credits earned in line with their grade level.
 - Student's attendance record must be consistent with Gross Catholic policy which allows no more than eight absences the previous semester.
 - Student may not have been expelled from previous school.
 - Second-semester seniors are not accepted.
3. Financial assistance
 - Students who transfer from another Omaha metro high school are generally ineligible for financial assistance until they have completed one full year at Gross Catholic.
4. Responsibilities of transfer student
 - At the time of registration the family of the transfer student has the responsibility to provide Gross Catholic High School with the records and transcripts from the student's previous school.
4. Honor courses
 - If an honors course is not offered to Gross Catholic students, honors weight will not be awarded for the transfer credit, but the course will be designated as an honor course on the permanent transcript.

UNSCHEDULED TIME

Many students have one period during the school day that is not scheduled for classes. Students must remain in the building and report to a supervised area. Junior and senior students can leave school at the end of the day when they are finished with all classes. Freshman and sophomore students cannot leave school at all and are required to stay in school until dismissal.

VALUABLES

It is highly recommended that valuable items and large sums of money

not be brought to school. The school cannot be responsible for these items.

VANDALISM

Vandalism to school furnishings, building and property is an act which may subject a student to immediate dismissal from school.

VISITORS

Students who are in the 7th and 8th grade at a feeder grade school and who are considering attending Gross Catholic may accompany a Gross Catholic High student to school.

A Gross Catholic High student may have only one guest at a time. Students wishing to bring a guest must contact the Recruitment Office at least one day in advance. As a general rule, no more than 10 guests may be in the school on any given day.

Students presently attending other area high schools who may be interested in attending Gross Catholic should have their parents make an appointment with the Principal in order to visit the school. All guests must wear appropriate identification.

Students who arrive at Gross Catholic without prior approval will have to return home.

VULGARITIES

Use of vulgar or obscene language or gestures is inappropriate at Gross Catholic High School.

WAIVING CREDITS

Under no circumstances may a state requirement be waived. However, those requirements unique to Gross Catholic High School may be waived by petitioning in writing for a waiver to the principal. An independent

committee will judge the valid and unique reasons for a waiver. Required courses are seldom waived and exceptions are only made for valid reasons.

WEAPONS

A student bringing a weapon to school will be expelled and turned over to the proper authorities. Threats to use a weapon will be investigated and may be treated the same as possession of a weapon.

WEIGHT ROOM

The weight room is available to all Gross Catholic High students. No student may use the weight room without a partner and the supervision of a representative of the Gross Catholic High School coaching/training staff. Gross Catholic is not responsible for lifting accidents due to improper training or technique or the unsupervised use of the equipment.

COUGAR FIGHT SONG

**Here we are!! We're the Gross High Cougars!!
Fighters all and winners too!!
Here we are!! We're the Cagey Cougars!!
Go with the Orange and Blue!!**

**Hear 'em howl,
Hear 'em growl,
Hungry Cougars on the Prowl.**

**Hear 'em shout, Hear 'em say,
We go winners all the way.**

**Rah!! Rah!! Rah! Rah! Rah!....Hey!!
Come on Cougars!! Show 'em how we do it!!**

**Show 'em how the game is won!!
On your mark!! Get Set!! Go to it!!**

GROSS HIGH! GREAT! GREAT!

BEST IN THE HUSKER STATE!

COUGARS ARE NUMBER ONE!! HEY!!