



Parent Handbook

*Awakening a child's sense of wonder,
fostering a child's love of learning, and growing our relationship with God.*



Welcome to the Little Falcon Learning Center!

Your child is about to embark on a wonderful journey of learning, growing and experiencing this amazing world God has given to us.

This Parent Handbook will provide you, the parent/guardian, with information about the daily operation of our program, curriculum, early childhood education philosophy and goals, as well as other pertinent contact and reference information. Please retain this Parent Handbook for your personal use throughout the school year.

Our goal is to keep an open and timely line of communication between home and preschool. Please read through your Parent Handbook thoroughly. When you have finished reading the Parent Handbook, please sign and date the form found at the end of Parent Handbook and return it to school for our records.

If, after reading through this handbook, you have additional questions or need further clarification, please feel free to talk to your child's teacher or me at any time.

I look forward to an exciting and fun-filled school year!

Faith Kirtley, Director
Little Falcon Learning Center
440-248-1350, ext. 256

Philosophy and Goals

This is an exciting time for your family. The Little Falcon Learning Center (LFLC) will be a valuable resource to you during your child's important formative years.

The LFLC is committed to each child's well-being and provides healthy, emotional models for them as they grow in self-confidence, independence and in the ability to give and receive love. Children thrive best in an atmosphere of trust, respect, and love. Our educators provide a caring environment and allow the children to develop their own unique personality and abilities.

Our developmentally appropriate and intellectually stimulating programs support the imagination and promote a child's natural love of learning. Our educators encourage each child to develop the social skills necessary for positive relationships with others. Open communication between parents and staff is essential to fully meet your child's needs. We look forward to establishing a positive relationship with each family!

The LFLC provides the foundation for your child's future success as they progress into Kindergarten and beyond.

Parental Responsibility

As the primary educator of your child/children, you have chosen to send your children to the Little Falcon Learning Center at St. Rita School because you want them to be educated in a Catholic, Christian environment. This environment is to be a continuation of the Christian upbringing the children have received and are continuing to receive at home. Having chosen the LFLC, it is vital that you support the educational efforts of the administration and teachers by your cooperation and involvement in the established policies.

It is our expectation that parents:

- Show courtesy and respect for administration, teachers and students.
- Pay tuition bills and fees in a timely manner.
- Follow the rules of the school and the provisions of this Parent Handbook.
- Attend special and regular teacher conferences.
- Respect the instructional time in the classroom.

Tuition and Finances

A \$100 registration fee per child is required, payable at the time of registration. This fee is non-refundable.

Tuition is due by the 1st of every month beginning in September. The last tuition payment for the school year is due by May 1st. Statements will be mailed in August for the tuition bill in September. All other statements will be sent home in your child's communication folder and/or via email.

You may pay tuition by credit card in your HeadMaster account, personal check, money order or automatic withdrawal. All returned checks for insufficient funds will have a \$25 fee charged to your account. After a first offense of a returned check, a money order may be required for tuition payment.

Admission Policies

The LFLC will accept students of any race, color, or ethnic origin, with priority given to active registered members of St. Rita Parish, followed by the members of a supporting parish, which include Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Saints Cosmas & Damian, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Church of the Resurrection. Priority will be given to brothers and sisters of students who are already enrolled in the LFLC or St. Rita School.

Discharge Policy

The Preschool reserves the right to cancel the enrollment of a child for the following reasons:

- Non-payment or excessive late payments of tuition
- Not observing the rules of the preschool outlined in the Parent Handbook
- Physical and/or verbal abuse of staff or children by parent or child

- Unsafe behavior of a child

Elastic Clause

Because it is impossible to foresee all problems that arise, this clause empowers the faculty and administration to take disciplinary action for any behavior which violates the spirit, mission, and philosophy of the Little Falcon Learning Center even though not specified under conduct and discipline. The guiding principle is to insure a safe, nurturing environment conducive to learning. The definition of what constitutes serious behavior is determined by the administration with assistance from the Diocesan guidelines. The order in which steps are taken in following the school's disciplinary actions are determined by the administration and when necessary by a faculty member, as deemed necessary for the circumstance at hand.

Registration

Application is made through formal admission registration. Filling out a registration form and paying your \$100 non-refundable registration fee guarantees your child a spot in our program.

By the first day of school, the following paperwork is required: (1) Signature page from Parent Handbook (2) Emergency Medical Authorization form (3) Emergency Phone Blast & Constant Contact form (4) Child Medical Statement (5) Current Immunization Record (6) Copy of Birth and Baptismal Certificates.

Admission and re-admission to the Little Falcon Learning Center at St. Rita School is on an annual basis. Re-admission is at the discretion of the school administration. A waiting list is established once maximum class size is reached as determined by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

Three Year Old Preschool Students: Children entering our three-year-old program must be 3 years of age by September 30.

Pre-K Students: Children entering our Pre-K program must be 4 or 5 years of age by September 30.

Parent Orientation

The LFLC will host an orientation for parents of incoming students prior to the start of the year. You will be notified by mail/email as to the time and date.

Curriculum

Our Curriculum is aligned to Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum and Academic Guidelines from the Office of Catechetical Formation of the Diocese of Cleveland. The curriculum helps us build a community of learners. Early childhood research shows that children learn by exploring the world around them.

Learning opportunities are planned to allow children to make discoveries at their own pace, and to express their own creativity. Our educators do not expect projects to look the same, or for a child to do something in exactly the same way as another child. We provide an environment which values the process over the product.

Our Early Learning Curriculum includes:

- Reading Readiness
- Pre-Math
- Science
- Art and Expression
- Music and Movement
- Spanish
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- Religion

Before School Childcare

LFLC provides Before School Childcare for all preschool students Monday-Friday, 7:00 am - 8:00

am in the Little Falcon Learning Center classroom located next to the Middle School offices. At 7:45 am your child will be escorted to the appropriate classroom prior to the first bell. Registration is preferred, but not required. We welcome last minute drop-ins since we understand parent schedules can quickly change. A registration form can be obtained from the LFLC Director or by visiting www.stritaschool.com and downloading a form from the LFLC tab. To gain entrance to the School at 7:00 am, please use the buzzer marked, "Preschool" to the right of the entrance door.

After School Childcare

LFLC provides After School Childcare for all preschool students Monday-Friday, 2:45-6:00 pm. Parents must register their child(ren) for After School Childcare. A registration form can be obtained from the LFLC Director or by visiting www.stritaschool.com and downloading a form from the LFLC tab. Registered students will remain in the LFLC during After School Childcare hours. We provide a safe, enriching environment for students with plenty of fun activities. Snacks are provided. Pick up is at 6 pm promptly. A \$1 fee for every minute late will be billed.

Child Custody

In the case of divorce or separation, a certified copy of the entire and most current court order stating who has custody of the child and other issues that relate to custody is to be sent to the LFLC Director. The court order shall contain the signature of the judge and clerk of the court filing stamp. This information should be kept current. If custody or arrangements that affect the child should change, a new copy must be provided to the Director. The LFLC is not the place to exchange custody or begin visitation.

A child is released only to the custodial parent, persons designated by the emergency card, or per specific written request signed by the custodial parent.

Non-residential parents have the same right of access to the child's records as the residential parent unless specified limits are indicated in the legal custody agreement.

Information about the child and scheduled teacher conferences is communicated to the residential custodial parent who shares it with the other parent according to their court agreement.

Emergency Forms

Each year, you will be sent an emergency form for each of your children. Emergency forms must be updated yearly or whenever relevant information such as cell phone, business, or home numbers, email addresses, or residential addresses change.

Upon receipt, please take the time to completely fill out an emergency form FOR EACH CHILD and return immediately to the school. It is imperative to your child's health and safety to have these cards on file. In the case of illness or accident, parents are notified and contacted as described on the emergency forms.

Parent Request for Administration of Medication by School

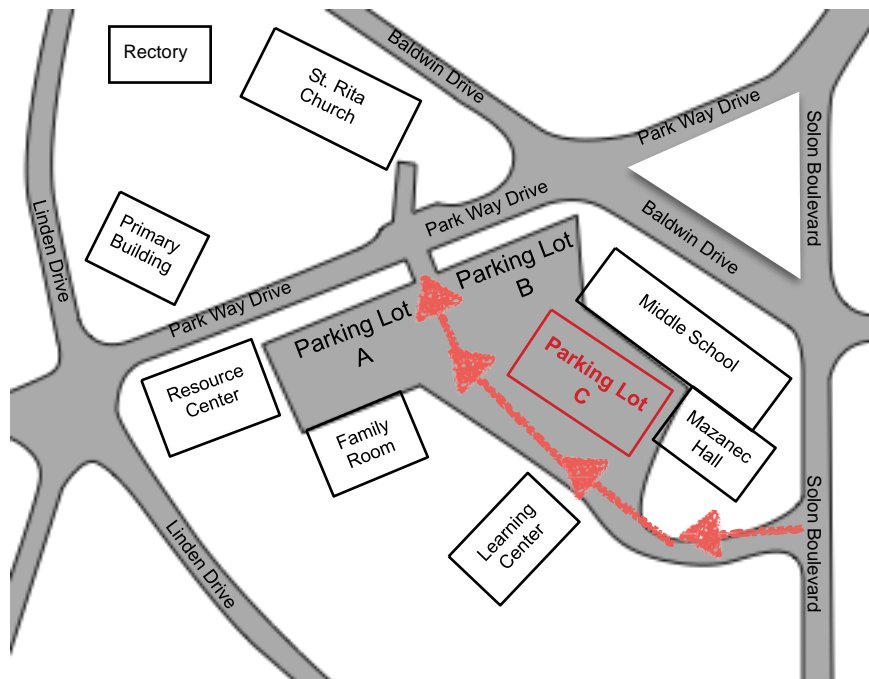
Forms may be obtained from the LFLC Director or from the website. No medication will be given without the proper forms filled out and signed by parents/guardians and your child's physician indicating dosing and other pertinent information.

IF YOUR CHILD IS HIGHLY ALLERGIC OR HAS A SEVERE MEDICAL CONDITION, please call the LFLC Director prior to the first day of classes to set up a time to discuss with the LFLC Director and your child's teacher.

Morning Arrival Procedure

Morning Class begins promptly at 8:15 AM. Please bring your children in no earlier than 8:00. Parents are to escort their children inside the vestibule of the Middle School building from 8-8:15 AM. Please be mindful of other cars which may be dropping off students to the Middle School building. The children's safety is our primary concern and we hope to have your full cooperation in this matter. Please do not bring your child into the building early.

Please enter by Solon Boulevard and park in PARKING LOT C as shown in the below diagram. Upon exiting PARKING LOT C, please continue past the Middle School building and leave via Park Way Drive. DO NOT EXIT back on to Solon Boulevard as this would go against our morning traffic pattern and put our students in danger.



Afternoon Dismissal Procedure

2:45 pm Begin entering parking lot from Solon Boulevard only. Park cars in PARKING LOT C only. When your child's class is dismissed, we will have them ready for you at the entrance of the LFLC. Please wait in the vestibule and we will bring your child out to you. Students are dismissed from the Primary and Middle School buildings.

At this time YOU MAY NO LONGER EXIT THE PARKING LOT. Students from the Middle School building will be walking to their respective cars and for their safety your car must remain where it is. Cars are not to move until all students are safely in their cars and the signal has been given to do so.

Parents will be directed from the parking lot. SECTIONS A AND B WILL BE DISMISSED FIRST FOLLOWED BY SECTION C. If in the Section A turn left, Section B turns right, Section C pull straight ahead and turn in the direction of the side you are on. Do not cross over. You must follow the flow of traffic.

Absence Policy

If your child will be absent from school, please call the school office at (440-248-1350, ext. 102).

Dress Code

- While there is no official dress code, we offer these helpful suggestions:
- Play clothes are the most practical and comfortable for the child.
- Jogging suits are terrific for bathroom breaks.
- Art shirts are provided and help prevent some messes, but clothes may still get dirty.
- Party or dress shoes with leather soles should be avoided. Sneakers are ideal.
- We will gladly help your child with boots, hats, mittens, and scarves during the winter months.
- Please label all items of clothing: coats, boots, mittens, hats, book bags, etc.
- We encourage the children to dress themselves and to practice this important skill at home.

Bathroom Policy

Little Falcon Learning Center is a preschool program for children ages 3 to 6 years old. All children attending LFLC need to be bathroom trained. More than 3 accidents may result in him/her being excused from the preschool until bathroom training is complete.

Guidance

Our goal for children is that they develop inner control over their own behavior, as appropriate for their developmental level. Children learn self-control when adults treat them with dignity and use of guidance techniques such as:

- Guiding children by setting clear, consistent limits for classroom behavior or helping them to set their own limits
- Valuing mistakes as learning opportunities.
- Redirecting children to more acceptable behavior or activity.
- Listening when children talk about their feelings and frustrations.
- Helping children to resolve conflicts and modeling skills that help them solve their own problems.
- Patiently reminding children of the rules.

The classroom rules are:

- Keep hands and feet to yourself.
- Share and be kind with others.
- Respect for one another.

It is our belief that children may need many opportunities to try different behaviors in the same way they need to try other skills, such as cutting with scissors. In order to help a child achieve the goal of inner control, our teachers utilize a **preventative discipline approach**. This includes the use of strategies to help prevent inappropriate behaviors. Activities are set up to give children choices, which include reasoning and redirection.

Giving choices and establishing consequences are effective ways of discipline. If choices, reasoning, and consequences are not effective, the teacher in some situations may decide to have the child take a time out. This method involves isolating the child (within sight of the teacher) from the other students. Time outs are used as a last resort. At no time will any child be subjected to verbal abuse, harsh, cruel treatment or physical punishment.

Discipline

The first two weeks of school are considered a trial period. On occasion, a program is not an optimal fit for a child or family. The Preschool will make every effort to work with parents of children having difficulties. However, the Preschool must also serve and protect all children. Children displaying unsafe behavior which has been determined to be upsetting to the physical or emotional well-being of others or his/herself may be suspended from the preschool.

The Director may immediately suspend a child at any time he/she exhibits a behavior which is harmful or unsafe to him/herself or others. A parent may be called from work at any time the child exhibits uncontrollable behavior that cannot be modified by the preschool staff. A parent may be asked to take the child home immediately. Suspensions for the Preschool may vary from a few hours to an indefinite period of time.

Birthday Celebrations

A student may bring a **non-edible** treat on the day of his/her birthday celebration. Non-edible treats with a \$1.00 limit per item (pencils, pens, stickers, etc.) allow all the children to take part in the treat. Please keep it simple. Please note that invitations to special events need to be mailed from home. Invitations are not permitted to be passed out in the LFLC where other students may be hurt by not receiving one.

Lunches

Parents are responsible to pack a lunch for your child or purchase a lunch through your HeadMaster account. You can add monies to the family account by clicking on the "Make Payment" button in the "Family Balances" section on the main "Parent Page". Then click on the "Lunch" tab in the upper right hand corner. Next click on the "Order Lunch" button. Here you can pre-order either meal 1 or 2 main meal choice for your child. Remember to click the submit button.

Snacks & Lunches

All snacks and lunches will be provided by the parent/guardian. Always clearly mark each child's snack/lunch bag with his/her name. Snacks should include water or juice box to drink. Lunches may be purchased in the school cafeteria. Information will be provided at Orientation.

Field Trips

Classes will participate in field trips throughout the school year, which enrich classroom learning. In the cost of field trips, minimal charges are made to cover entrance fees. Children may participate in field trips only with complete written permission of a parent/guardian provided to your child's teacher prior to the field trips. Field trip permission forms will be sent home for completion in advance of the trip.

Permission cannot be given over the phone.

Field trips are a privilege, not a right. Rules of the school regarding behavior apply to all field trips. Students may be excluded from field trips by the administration if their participation would be determined as detrimental to the group. This may be decided at any time including the day and up to the time of departure.

Parents attending field trips must meet all Parish & Diocesan screening requirements. **All parent chaperones and volunteers are required to complete a VIRTUS Training Seminar and visit our Parish office for on-site fingerprinting.** Dates and times of available VIRTUS training sessions as well as registration information can be found at www.virtus.org.

Virtus Training / Volunteer Screening Process

To maintain the highest level of safety for our children and volunteers, St. Rita Parish is continuing to adopt a screening process for all employees and volunteers who have access to our students. "Virtus" is a Latin word that means, "valor or moral excellence." The Virtus Program assists our Church in being a safe haven for children and a messenger for preventing child sexual abuse within the Church and society in general.

If you wish to volunteer in our school—chaperone field trips, volunteer for lunch monitor, help during classroom holiday parties, coach a CYO team, volunteer in the library, etc.—you must attend one, 3-hour Virtus training session. Once you have completed your training sessions, you will receive a certificate—a copy of which will be kept on file in our School and Parish offices.

If you are new to St. Rita School, and are already VIRTUS trained, please provide a copy of your certification to our School offices. You will still need to perform a Criminal Background Check.

Our Screening Process includes four areas:

- A signed acknowledgment form must be on file with the parish office that you possess and have read a copy of the “Policy for the Safety of Children in Matters of Sexual Abuse” written by the Diocese of Cleveland.
- A signed acknowledgment form must be on file with the parish office that you possess, have read, and will comply with the “Standards of Conduct for Ministry” written by the Diocese of Cleveland.
- You must make an appointment with our Parish Offices (440-248-1350, ext. 100) to perform a Criminal Background Check. There is a voluntary \$24 fee which helps cover the cost incurred by the parish for performing each Criminal Background Check.
- You must attend one 3-hour training course, followed up by monthly articles which you must read. These articles are distributed via email. There is no cost to attend a VIRTUS training session. VIRTUS sessions are held all throughout the diocese, including St. Rita Parish. Visit the VIRTUS website, www.virtus.org and click on ‘registration’. Next click on ‘view a list of sessions’ then select ‘Cleveland Diocese’. (You only need to attend one session during your time at the Little Falcon Learning Center and St. Rita School.)

PLEASE NOTE: Processing time for fingerprints varies from a few days to rare cases of a few weeks. To ensure you are approved in time for the event you would like to volunteer for, please plan ahead and complete the process weeks in advance. Once you have received your VIRTUS certificate, you must bring that with you to the main office to be processed.

Conferences and Progress Reports

Parent/Teacher conferences will be scheduled for all parents twice per school year. If a conference is desired at any other time, parents are to contact the child’s teacher through a written note or email. Teachers can then assign a time and notify parents with the specifics of the conference.

Additional Communications

LFLC communications, calendars, newsletters, and flyers will be sent home with students in a Parent/Teacher communication folder to be given to each child at the start of the school year. This communication folder must accompany your child to and from school each day of class. Communications may also be sent to you via email.

Safety Policy

No child shall ever be left alone or unsupervised. Children will be greeted by the teacher or teacher’s aide and released to a parent/guardian at the end of class.

Fire and tornado drills will be practiced. Discuss with your child the importance of fire and tornado drills to help alleviate any anxieties.

School doors are kept locked. Visitors must go to the main doors in the Middle School building to enter and announce themselves to the office staff. This is a state law. If a visitor is expecting to go to a classroom, they must secure a visitor or volunteer badge from the Middle School secretary.

If a child or parent exhibits unsafe behavior the Little Falcon Learning Center reserves the right to suspend the child from the preschool.

Early Sign Out

A parent/guardian must sign children out before leaving the building. Parents are to park in the Middle School parking lot. A parent is asked to report to the main office and make the request for early dismissal. The parent may then go to the entrance of the LFLC and the child will be brought out to them.

Playground/Recess

Play equipment is provided for recess. Students must follow the directions of their teacher. Toys should not be brought from home. The LFLC is not responsible for any toy or games brought to class.

Personal Property/Clothing

Please make sure all items/clothing are clearly labeled with the student's full name. In the event of loss or theft, the LFLC is not responsible for financial reimbursement of personal property.

Parent Roster

A Parent Roster is developed as required by state law so you will know other families in the program. If you do not wish to have your name on the list, please indicate that on the Emergency Authorization Form. A copy of the Parent Roster is available in the Director's office.

Inclement Weather

The LFLC follows the Solon and Twinsburg School Districts for school closings due to inclement weather. If either school district is closed, St. Rita School and the LFLC are also closed.

Parents are advised to do one of the following if they suspect the LFLC is closed: check the local news broadcast or website for school closings OR listen to the radio.

St. Rita School also utilizes an automated phone call service that will notify families of all school closings. You will be given an opportunity to opt-out of this automated phone service if you choose not to participate.

There is no reimbursement for tuition for snow days.

Management of Communicable Diseases

In order to minimize transmission of communicable disease the following policies have been developed by the state as a way to protect the health of all children enrolled. A Communicable Disease Chart, which is the guidelines set up by The Department of Health, is posted in the LFLC. These guidelines allow minimal interpretation by staff. If your child shows symptoms listed in the guidelines, staff will contact you to take your child home.

A child with signs or symptoms listed below shall be isolated under the supervision of a staff member and then discharged to the parent, guardian, or other adult designated as an emergency contact:

- A temperature of 99 degrees Fahrenheit by auxiliary (under the arm) method
- Nausea
- Vomiting (one time)
- Diarrhea
- Undiagnosed/untreated skin rash
- Stiff neck
- Unusually dark urine and or gray or white stool
- Yellowish skin or eyes
- Conjunctivitis (pink-eye): Redness of the eye or eyelid, thick and purulent (pus) discharge, matted eyelashes, burning, itching or eye pain
- Difficult or rapid breathing
- Sore throat
- Evidence of lice, ringworm, pinworm, or scabies infestation
- Severe coughing
- Is unable to take part in regularly scheduled activities

A child experiencing minor common cold symptoms will be allowed to stay at school provided he/she is not exhibiting any of the above symptoms.

If a communicable disease has been diagnosed in a child, a letter/e-mail will be sent to each family to inform the parents what their child was exposed to.

A child sent home from school with the above symptoms may not return until:

- The child has been seen by a physician, been diagnosed and treated.
- The child has been seen by the physician, who has determined that the child's illness is not contagious and verified so in writing for the school's records.
- The child is able to participate fully in the regularly scheduled activities, as defined in this handbook.
- The child is symptom free for 48 hours.

Please call the LFLC if your child is to be absent on a particular day. If you expect that he/she may be ill the entire week, do state that when you call. It is equally important that staff maintains good health and not bring illness in to the school; therefore, staff with the above-stated conditions are expected to take sick days. LFLC staff is trained in first aid, CPR and communicable disease.

Head Lice Policy

The LFLC has a No-Nit Policy. This means a child found to have head lice may not return to school until all nits (eggs) and bugs are completely removed from the student's hair. **Upon returning to school the student must be checked by the Clinic before returning to their classroom.** Parents need to be vigilant as well, especially during outbreaks.

Strep Throat Policy

A child may not return to school following a positive strep throat culture until they have completed a full 48 hours of medication and have been fever free for 48 hours.

Fever

If a child has a fever of 99 degrees or above, the student may not attend school and cannot return to school until the child is fever free for 48 hours.

Conjunctivitis (Pink-Eye)

A child must leave school and be seen by a doctor if they have a suspected case of conjunctivitis (pink-eye). A child may not return to school until they have had a complete 24 hours of treatment and there is no discharge coming from the eyes.

AIDS Policy

Children with AIDS enrolled or seeking enrollment shall be permitted to attend school provided the following health considerations stated below are met:

- The health of the child, as documented by his/her physician, allows participation in regular academic school activities.
- The child behaves acceptably, in a manner that would not cause spread of the disease or in any way put others at risk.
- The child does not have open sores, skin eruptions, or any other condition, which prevents his/her control of bodily secretions.
- There are periodic evaluations of the child's physical condition with written certification from his/her physician allowing continuing participation in regular school activities.

Parents and guardians have the obligation to report to the LFLC Director when a child has been diagnosed as having AIDS, ARC or other illness caused by the Human Immune Deficiency Virus. In order to protect confidentiality, when a child with AIDS is enrolled in the LFLC, personnel who are made aware of the child's condition will be the minimum necessary to assure proper care of the child. Based on the condition of the child and the expected type of interaction with others, the LFLC Director and the St. Rita School Principal, after consultation with the proper authorities, may limit the child's participation in school activities.

License

The LFLC is licensed to operate by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). The preschool's licensing records, inspection forms, and license are posted in the LFLC. To contact the Ohio Department of Education directly call 1-877-644-6338.

We are required by ODE to maintain the following child/staff ratios: Three years 1:12, Four and Five years 1:14. The LFLC usually maintains lower staff to child ratios in order to meet the higher standard of the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This is subject to change from year to year depending on the status of enrollment.

Early Childhood Education Tuition Credit Reward

St. Rita School believes we have the best Early Childhood Education program in the area—aligning milestone grade levels into convenient learning environments. Pre-K and Kindergarten, because of their close proximity, can now work closely to monitor each student's progress and tailor their learning directly to their individual capabilities. Grades 1-4 are housed together in the Primary Building, allowing teachers to work together planning your child's educational needs from year to year.

To reward parents for entrusting us with their children's education during these formative learning years, we are offering you a Tuition Credit Reward!

How the Tuition Credit Reward Works...

- By registering your Pre-Kindergarten child for enrollment in Kindergarten; you will receive a \$300 tuition credit reward on Oct. 1 of the next academic year.
- By registering your Kindergarten child for enrollment in First Grade; you will receive a \$400 tuition credit reward on Oct. 1 of the next academic year.

This Tuition Credit Reward will automatically be credited to your family's tuition account. Uninterrupted education time between our teachers and your child, during the most pivotal time in your child's educational journey is the ultimate goal of our Early Childhood Education Program. This is what sets St. Rita School apart from other area elementary schools. This is the St. Rita difference!

Kindergarten Screening

Kindergarten screening takes place each year in the classroom. Since your child is a student in the Little Falcon Learning Center, you will not need to make a separate appointment for screening purposes. Your child's teacher will keep you up to date on your child's progress throughout the school year.



PHOTO & VIDEO RELEASE AND AUTHORIZATION

Do hereby consent and authorize the release, publication, dissemination, distribution, use, and / or reproduction of any and all photographs or videos taken of my (our) son(s) or daughter(s) during his / her enrollment at St Rita School by an employee, student, agent or representative of St Rita School or independent contractor. We understand that our child's image, name, work product, school and grade may be revealed in the presentation(s), but that no other information about our child / children or his / her schoolwork will be revealed without prior consent.

This **Release and Authorization** acknowledges that all photographs and videos used for the purpose of our Yearbook, Advertising, Marketing Materials and all Social Media including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest (but not limited to these), shall constitute the property of St. Rita School and may be used by St. Rita School for any purpose determined at its discretion, without further notice or any compensation to me (us) or to my sons(s) or daughter(s).



St. Rita School – Student Acceptable Use Policy 2017-2018

Diocese of Cleveland

St. Rita School makes a variety of communications and information technologies available to students through computer/network/Internet access. These technologies, when properly used, promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Illegal, unethical or inappropriate use of these technologies can have dramatic consequences, harming the school, its students and its employees. The Acceptable Use Policy is intended to minimize the likelihood of such harm by educating **St. Rita's** students and setting standards which will serve to protect the school. We firmly believe that digital resources, information and interaction available on the computer, network or Internet far outweigh any disadvantages.

All users are expected to use the technology available at **St. Rita School** in a manner that is consistent with the teachings and mission of the Catholic Church and the school's academic programs. Technology includes but is not limited to: cellular telephones; CD/MP3/DVD players; personal data devices; computers, hardware and peripherals; software including operating system and application software; Internet; digitized information including stored text, data, email, digital images, video and audio files; internally or externally accessed databases, applications, or tools (Internet- or school-server based); school provided Internet access; and new technologies as they become available.

Users are expected to be appropriately responsible for and use technology to which they have access. Actions considered inappropriate are prohibited and will result in revocation of the student's access to the computer/network/Internet.

Inappropriate Use: Inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to: those uses that are specifically named as violations in this document; that violate the rules of network etiquette; or that hamper the integrity or security of this computer/network/Internet system or any components that are connected to it.

Transmission of any material in violation of any federal or state law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: cyber bullying; threatening, pornographic, harassing, defamatory or obscene material; or other inappropriate use of technology such as e-mail, social networking, web pages, and the use of hardware and/or software which disrupts or interferes with the safety and welfare of the school community (even if such uses take place after school hours or off school property).

Students must:

1. Respect and protect the privacy of others.
 - a. Use only assigned accounts.
 - b. Decline to view, use, or copy passwords, data, or networks to which they are not authorized.
 - c. Avoid distribution of private information about others or themselves.
2. Respect and protect the integrity, availability, and security of all electronic resources.
 - a. Observe all network security practices as posted.
 - b. Report security risks or violations to a school administrator, teacher or network administrator.
 - c. Refrain from destroying or damaging data, networks, or other resources that do not belong to them without clear permission of the owner.
 - d. Conserve, protect, and share these resources with other students and Internet users.
 - e. Refrain from accessing the network with personal devices without approval of school administration.
 - f. Abstain from overriding the Internet content filtering system.
3. Respect and protect the intellectual property of others.
 - a. Refrain from copyright infringement (making illegal copies of music, games, or movies).
 - b. Avoid plagiarism.
4. Respect and practice the principles of parish and school community.
 - a. Communicate only in ways that are kind and respectful.

- b. Report threatening or discomforting materials (cyber bullying) to a school administrator, teacher or network administrator.
- c. Refuse to access, transmit, copy, or create material that violates the school's code of conduct (such as messages that are pornographic, threatening, rude, discriminatory, or meant to harass).
- d. Avoid accessing, transmitting, copying, or creating material that is illegal (such as obscenity, stolen materials, or illegal copies of copyrighted works).
- e. Abstain from using the resources to further other acts that are criminal or violate the school's code of conduct.
- f. Avoid sending spam, chain letters, or other mass unsolicited mailings.
- g. Refrain from buying, selling, advertising, or otherwise conducting business, unless approved as a school project.
- h. Avoid posting or disseminating any harassing, demeaning, threatening or immoral comment or visual injurious to the reputation of the school, the parish, the Church or an individual, whether the action occurs on school property or off grounds.

Consequences for Violation: Violations of these rules may result in disciplinary action, including the loss of a student's privileges to use the school's information technology resources. Users have the responsibility to use technology resources in an appropriate manner. Consequences of misuse or abuse of these resources will be disciplined depending on the severity of the situation.

Supervision and Monitoring: School and network administrators and their authorized employees periodically monitor the use of information technology resources to help ensure that users are secure and in conformity with this policy. Students have no expectation of privacy with respect to the use of technology resources. Administrators reserve the right to examine, use, and disclose any data found on the school's information networks in order to further the health, safety, discipline, or security of any student or other person, or to protect property. The school administration has the right of access to any electronic devices brought onto school property. They may also use this information in disciplinary actions and will furnish evidence of crime to law enforcement should one be committed.

Agreement form: In order to ensure the proper use of technology resources, it is necessary that each user and parent/guardian annually sign the attached Student Acceptable Use Policy – User Agreement Form. The signed form must be on file at **St. Rita School** before Internet and other technology access is permitted. Signing the form indicates that the user will abide by the rules governing Internet and other technology access as stated in this policy.

The school reserves the right to issue additional or more detailed rules for the use of technology resources, and violations of such rules may be a cause for imposition of any of the penalties delineated above. The school reserves the right to seek financial restitution for any damage caused by a student.



Acceptable Use Policy – Computer Parent Handbook Photo / Video Release

Parent & Student Information Section for Computer Use:

Parent: I have read the Student Acceptable Use Policy and grant permission for my child to access St. Rita School's information technology resources. I understand that my child's school may not be able to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold St. Rita School responsible for materials acquired on the network.

- I have read the terms and conditions of the Student Acceptable Use Policy for the computer.
- I understand that technological resources are provided for educational purposes only.

Parent & Student Section for the Handbook:

I have read the Parent Handbook and understand that by sending our child(ren) to The Little Falcon Learning Center at St. Rita School, we will strive to meet the standards and act in agreement with these policies and procedures.

I have read in the Parent Handbook the policy regarding Photo & Video release information.

Photo / Video Release Permission _____ Yes _____ No

Having read the Parent Handbook and knowing the importance of home and school working together, we will support the LFLC in its implementation of these policies. We will work toward creating a positive school environment for all students, teachers and staff.

Your signature below states your permission and adherence to the above stated policies of the:

- Acceptable Use Policy/Computer
- Parent Handbook
- Photo / Video Release

On the St. Rita website under "Parent Resource" tab click on school policy to find the Parent Handbook. Please carefully read over the entire Handbook. Your signatures are required below and implies your full permission and agreement with all policies stated in the handbook.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Little Falcon Learning Center at St. Rita School

Faith Kirtley, Director
440-248-1350, ext. 256

St. Rita School

Deborah Grgic, Principal
440-248-1350, ext. 105

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