

# Mary of Lourdes Wellness Policy

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# Mary of Lourdes Wellness Policy

## Preamble

Mary of Lourdes School is committed to the optimal development of every student. The School believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental and social success, we need to create positive, safe and health-promoting learning environments at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year.

Research shows that two components, good nutrition and physical activity before, during and after the school day, are strongly correlated with positive student outcomes. For example, student participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Breakfast Program is associated with higher grades and standardized test scores, lower absenteeism and better performance on cognitive tasks. Conversely, less-than-adequate consumption of specific foods including fruits, vegetables and dairy products, is associated with lower grades among students. In addition, students who are physically active through active transport to and from school, recess, physical activity breaks, high-quality physical education and extracurricular activities – do better academically. Finally, there is evidence that adequate hydration is associated with better cognitive performance.

This policy outlines the School's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. Specifically, this policy establishes goals and procedures to ensure that:

- Students in the School have access to healthy foods throughout the school day – both through reimbursable school meals and other foods available throughout the school campus– in accordance with Federal and state nutrition standards; <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
  - Students receive quality nutrition education that helps them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors;
  - Students have opportunities to be physically active before, during and after school;
  - Schools engage in nutrition and physical activity promotion and other activities that promote student wellness;
  - School staff are encouraged and supported to practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors in and out of school.
- The community is engaged in supporting the work of the District in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and

- The School establishes and maintains an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about and monitoring of the policy and its established goals and objectives.

This policy applies to all students, staff and schools in the School. Specific measurable goals and outcomes are identified within each section below.

## **I. School Wellness Committee**

### ***Committee Role and Membership***

The School will convene a representative district wellness committee (hereto referred to as the SWC) that meets regularly to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation and periodic review and update of this school-level wellness policy (heretofore referred as “wellness policy”).

The SWC membership will represent all school levels (elementary and secondary schools) and include parents, representatives of the school nutrition program, physical education teachers; health education teachers, school administrators, school board members, and the general public.

### ***Leadership***

The Administrator will convene the SWC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure each school’s compliance with the policy.

The designated official for oversight is Principal Jodi Vanderheiden

The names, title, and contact information of these individuals are:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship to School</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Role on Committee</b>
Jodi Vanderheiden	Principal	jvanderheiden@molschool.org	Chairperson
Fr. Ben Kociemba	Pastor	lfpastortriparish@gmail.com	Member
Joe Curtiss	Head Cook	jcurtiss@molschool.org	Member

Debbie Stewart	School Nurse	molnurse@molschool.org	Member
Robin Pohlman	PE teacher	rpohlman@molschool.org	Member
Marge Markkanen	Teacher	mmarkkanen@molschool.org	Member
Wanda Gau	Teacher	wgau@molschool.org	Member
Jared Houdek	Board Member/Parent	jaredhoudek@yahoo.com	Member
William Boser	School Board	wboser@yahoo.com	Member
Carmen Genske	Co. Health Professional/Parent	CarmenG@co.morrison.mn.us	Member
Jennifer Swenson	Parent	Jennifer.Swenson@hotmail.com	Member
Sarah Posterick	Parent	sarah.posterick@gmail.com	Member
Stacy Stoerzinger	Parent	staci.stoerzinger@gmail.com	Member
Annika Klosowski	Parent	annikamczech@gmail.com	Member

## **II. Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability and Community Engagement**

### ***Implementation Plan***

The School will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness policy. The plan delineates roles, responsibilities, actions and timelines specific to each school; and includes information about who will be responsible to make what change, by how much, where and when; as well as specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus, food and beverage marketing, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education and other school-based activities that promote student wellness.

This wellness policy and the progress reports can be found at: [www.molschool.org](http://www.molschool.org)

### ***Recordkeeping***

The School will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy in the school offices and on the school website.

## ***Annual Notification of Policy***

The school will actively inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status. The School will make this information available via the school website.

## ***Triennial Progress Assessments***

At least once every three years, the School will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

- The extent to which school is under compliance with the wellness policy;
- The extent to which the School's wellness policy compares to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's model wellness policy; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the School's wellness policy.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is Principal Jodi Vanderheiden; [jvanderheiden@molschool.org](mailto:jvanderheiden@molschool.org)

The SWC, in collaboration with individual schools, will monitor schools' compliance with this wellness policy.

The School will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

## ***Revisions and Updating the Policy***

The SWC will update or modify the wellness policy based on the results of the annual School Health Index and triennial assessments and/or as School priorities change; community needs change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; and new Federal or state guidance or standards are issued. **The wellness policy will be assessed and updated as indicated at least every three years, following the triennial assessment.**

## ***Community Involvement, Outreach and Communications***

The School is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. The School will actively communicate ways in which representatives of SWC and others can participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of means appropriate

for that school. The School will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart

Snacks in School nutrition standards. The School will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the school's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. The School will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the school is communicating important school information with parents.

The School will actively notify the public about the content of any updates to the wellness policy annually. The School will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports.

### **III. Nutrition**

#### ***School Meals***

Our school is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams *trans* fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

Our School participates in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Special Milk Program (SMP). The School also operates additional nutrition-related programs and activities, including. The School is committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP programs, and other applicable Federal child nutrition programs, that:

- Are accessible to all students;
  - Are appealing and attractive to children;
  - Are served in clean and pleasant settings;
  - Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and Federal statutes and regulations. (The School offers reimbursable school meals that meet [USDA nutrition standards](#).)
  - Promote healthy food and beverage choices using the following [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#).
- Menus will be posted on the School website

▪Menus will be created/reviewed by a Registered Dietitian or other certified nutrition professional.

- The School meals are administered by a team of child nutrition professionals.
- The School child nutrition program will accommodate students with special dietary needs.
- Students will be allowed at least 10 minutes to eat breakfast and at least 20 minutes to eat lunch, counting from the time they have received their meal and are seated (meets Healthy Schools Program Gold-level criteria).
- Students are served lunch at a reasonable and appropriate time of day.
- Lunch will follow the recess period to better support learning and healthy eating.
- Participation in Federal child nutrition programs will be promoted among students and families to help ensure that families know what programs are available in their children's school.

### ***Staff Qualifications and Professional Development***

All school nutrition program directors, managers and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the [USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals](#). These school nutrition personnel will refer to [USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website](#) to search for training that meets their learning needs.

### ***Water***

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day.

- Students will be allowed to bring and carry water bottles filled with only water with them throughout the day.

### ***Competitive Foods and Beverages***

The School is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus during the school day support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (e.g., "competitive" foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits. A summary of the standards and information, as well as a Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools are available at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-smart-snacks>. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation provides a set of tools to assist with implementation of Smart Snacks

available at [www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org](http://www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org).

### ***Celebrations and Rewards***

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

### ***Fundraising***

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus\* during the school day\*. The School will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas.

### ***Nutrition Promotion***

Nutrition promotion also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to students and the community. The School will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs.

### ***Nutrition Education***

The School will teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating by all students. The School will provide nutrition education to include healthy eating and engage in nutrition promotion.

The School will provide links with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities.

### ***Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools***

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus\* during the school day\* will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Nutrition standards are permitted to be marketed or promoted to students.

## **IV. Physical Activity**

A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive school physical activity program (CSPAP). A CSPAP reflects strong coordination and synergy across all of the components: quality physical education as the foundation; physical activity before, during and after school; staff involvement and family and community engagement and the district is committed to providing these opportunities. Schools will ensure that these varied physical activity opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education (addressed in "Physical Education" subsection).

Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, classroom



physical activity breaks or physical education) **will not be withheld** as punishment for any reason.

The School will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to students to be active. The School will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

### ***Physical Education***

The School will provide students with physical education, using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education. The physical education curriculum will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and will help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts. The curriculum will support the essential components of physical education.

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes. The School will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

All **elementary students** in each grade will receive physical education.

All **middle school students** are required to take the equivalent of one academic year of physical education.

***Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education*** Health education will be required in all grades (elementary) and the School will require middle school students to take and pass at least one health education course.

### ***Recess (Elementary)***

All elementary schools will offer at least **20 minutes of recess** on all days during the school year. If recess is offered before lunch, schools will have appropriate hand-washing facilities and/or hand-sanitizing mechanisms located just inside/outside the cafeteria to ensure proper hygiene prior to eating and students are required to use these mechanisms before eating. Hand-washing time, as well as time to put away coats/hats/gloves, will be built in to the recess transition period/timeframe before students enter the cafeteria.

**Outdoor recess** will be offered when weather is feasible for outdoor play. In the event that the school or district must conduct **indoor recess**, teachers and staff will follow the indoor recess guidelines that promote physical activity for students, to the extent practicable.

Recess will complement, not substitute, physical education class. Recess monitors or teachers will encourage students to be active, and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

### ***Classroom Physical Activity Breaks (Elementary and Middle)***

The School recognizes that students are more attentive and ready to learn if provided with periodic breaks when they can be physically active or stretch. Thus, students will be offered **periodic opportunities** to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. The School recommends teachers provide short (3-5-minute) physical activity breaks to students during and between classroom time at least three days per week. These physical activity breaks will complement, not substitute, for physical education class, recess, and class transition periods.

### ***Active Academics***

Teachers will incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into “core” subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, math, language arts, social studies and others) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day.

### ***Glossary:***

**Extended School Day** – the time during, before and afterschool that includes activities such as clubs, intramural sports, band and choir practice, drama rehearsals and more.

**School Campus** - areas that are owned or leased by the school and used at any time for school- related activities, including on the outside of the school building, school buses or other vehicles used to transport students, athletic fields and stadiums (e.g., on scoreboards, coolers, cups, and water bottles), or parking lots.

**School Day** – the time between midnight the night before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day.

**Triennial** – recurring every three years.

## Resources

<sup>1</sup> *Bradley, B, Green, AC. Do Health and Education Agencies in the United States Share*

**Responsibility for Academic Achievement and Health? A Review of 25 years of Evidence About the Relationship of Adolescents' Academic Achievement and Health Behaviors, *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2013; 52(5):523–532.**<sup>[L1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> **Meyers AF, Sampson AE, Weitzman M, Rogers BL, Kayne H. School breakfast program and school performance. *American Journal of Diseases of Children*. 1989;143(10):1234–1239.**

<sup>3</sup> **Murphy JM. Breakfast and learning: an updated review. *Current Nutrition & Food Science*. 2007; 3:3–36.**<sup>[L1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> **Murphy JM, Pagano ME, Nachmani J, Sperling P, Kane S, Kleinman RE. The relationship of school breakfast to psychosocial and academic functioning: Cross-sectional and longitudinal observations in an inner-city school sample. *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*. 1998;152(9):899–907.**<sup>[L1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> **Pollitt E, Mathews R. Breakfast and cognition: an integrative summary. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. 1998; 67(4), 804S–813S.**<sup>[L1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> **Rampersaud GC, Pereira MA, Girard BL, Adams J, Metzler JD. Breakfast habits, nutritional status, body weight, and academic performance in children and adolescents. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*. 2005;105(5):743–760, quiz 761–762.**<sup>[L1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> **Taras, H. Nutrition and student performance at school. *Journal of School Health*. 2005;75(6):199–213.**<sup>[L1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> **MacLellan D, Taylor J, Wood K. Food intake and academic performance among adolescents. *Canadian Journal of Dietetic Practice and Research*. 2008;69(3):141–144.**<sup>[L1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> **Neumark-Sztainer D, Story M, Dixon LB, Resnick MD, Blum RW. Correlates of inadequate consumption of dairy products among adolescents. *Journal of Nutrition Education*. 1997;29(1):12–20.**<sup>[L1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> **Neumark-Sztainer D, Story M, Resnick MD, Blum RW. Correlates of inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption among adolescents. *Preventive Medicine*. 1996;25(5):497–505.**<sup>[L1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The association between school-based physical activity, including physical education, and academic performance. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, 2010.**<sup>[L1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> **Singh A, Uijtdewilligne L, Twisk J, van Mechelen W, Chinapaw M. Physical activity and performance at school: A systematic review of the literature including a methodological quality assessment. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*, 2012; 166(1):49–55.**<sup>[L1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> **Haapala E, Poikkeus A-M, Kukkonen-Harjula K, Tompuri T, Lintu N, Väistö J, Leppänen P, Laaksonen D, Lindi V, Lakka T. Association of physical activity and sedentary behavior with academic skills – A follow-up study among primary school children. *PLoS ONE*, 2014; 9(9): e107031.**<sup>[L1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> **Hillman C, Pontifex M, Castelli D, Khan N, Raine L, Scudder M, Drollette E, Moore R, Wu C-T, Kamijo K. Effects of the FITKids randomized control trial on executive control and brain function. *Pediatrics* 2014; 134(4): e1063- 1071.**<sup>[L1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> **Change Lab Solutions. (2014). District Policy Restricting the Advertising of Food and Beverages Not Permitted to be Sold on School Grounds. Retrieved from <http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/district-policy-school-food-ads>**