



ATONEMENT  
LUTHERAN SCHOOL

4224 W Ruby Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53209  
414-871-1224

# Family Handbook 2018-2019

*Atonement Lutheran School, a ministry of Atonement Lutheran Church, exists to reach our students and their families with the good news of eternal salvation in Jesus and to provide our students with a high quality education, equipping them for a life of Christian service.*



THE HANDBOOK	3
ABOUT ATONEMENT	3
ATONEMENT LUTHERAN SCHOOL'S PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT	4
HOMEWORK POLICY	7
PROMOTION / RETENTION / GRADUATION POLICY	8
ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS	8
USE OF IMAGES	8
YEARBOOK / SCHOOL PICTURES	9
UNIFORMS	9
DISCIPLINE	10
CELL PHONE USE	12
SCHOOL TELEPHONE USAGE	13
ACADEMIC DISHONESTY / CHEATING	13
NON-HARASSMENT POLICY	14
SEXUAL HARASSMENT / ACTIVITY	14
NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY	14
GOVERNANCE	14
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	15
SCHOOL SUPPLIES	16
SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE	16
SCHOOL DISMISSAL	17
SCHOOL ENTRANCE	17
SCHOOL COMMUNICATION	17
PARENT / TEACHER CONSULTATIONS	18
SCHOOL VISITORS	19
MISSION OFFERINGS	19
HEALTH / IMMUNIZATION	20
EMERGENCY CLOSING	20
PIANO / BAND LESSONS	21
CHOIRS / CHURCH SINGING	21
ATHLETICS / ATHLETIC FEES	21
ATONEMENT LUTHERAN SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT	22



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## **THE HANDBOOK**

The Atonement Lutheran School Handbook contains important information about Atonement's policies, traditions, and expectations. Good communication between home and school is essential to your child's education. Please read it carefully and keep it in a convenient place so that you can refer to it as needed. Please direct any questions or concerns about this handbook to Atonement Lutheran School's principal by calling the school office (414) 871-1224.

While updated annually, Atonement reserves the right to make changes to the handbook at any time. A paper copy will be distributed to each family at the beginning of the school year. Additional copies will be available from the school office upon request. Once your family has read the handbook, the Terms of Agreement form on the last page is to be signed by parents/guardians and given to the child's teacher or school office to indicate they are willing to partner with Atonement in the academic and spiritual education of their child.

## **ABOUT ATONEMENT**

### **Who We Are**

Atonement Lutheran School first began serving the northwest Milwaukee community in 1929. It is a ministry of Atonement Lutheran Church, a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Atonement Lutheran Church is an ethnically diverse congregation united as a family through faith in Jesus Christ as the world's Savior from sin and death. We believe and teach that the Bible is God's inspired Word without error, and seek to operate our school in accordance with it.

### **4K Mission**

#### **4K Mission Statement at Atonement Lutheran School**

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" Matthew 19:14. Atonement Lutheran's 4K program strives to lead little children to Jesus. The 4K students need to see that Jesus is their Savior.

Love is the key. Jesus' love is great and constant. In the 4K program at Atonement Lutheran, that love of Jesus is expressed and felt daily in the classroom through Bible stories, singing, and social interaction.

With Jesus at the core of all we do, children develop a lifelong love for learning and a strong desire to follow in His footsteps.

Atonement Lutheran's 4K Program provides activities that follow early childhood education best practices such as developmentally appropriate activities, observation and assessment, and positive behavior guidance. Developmentally appropriate practice in the classroom is designed to promote our 4K students optimal learning and development. These best practices in early childhood are implemented when it comes to develop large and small muscles, communication, language and number skills, and artistic



talents. As a child experiences this in 4K, he or she becomes better prepared to meet the demands of our progressive five-year-old kindergarten program, and becomes confident in his or her ability to do so.

4K has become an important part of the educational experience. Atonement Lutheran's 4K program exists to help parents meet the challenge of providing a Christ based education for their child in a changing and demanding world.

### **5K-8th Grade Mission**

Jesus said in Mark 16:15, "Go out into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Atonement Lutheran School has the wonderful news of sins forgiven and eternal salvation in Jesus Christ. At Christ's command and compelled by his love for us sinners, our mission is to share this good news with the students of our school and their families. God's Word is the centerpiece of the high quality education we offer. Students are encouraged to use their God-given gifts in everything they do. Every student of our school will receive:

- Daily devotions from God's Word
- Bible History as part of our regular curriculum
- Catechism class (focusing on the basic teachings of the Bible) for grades 5-8
- Chapel worship services for the entire student body every Friday
- Daily biblical encouragement from the faculty and staff of Atonement Lutheran

### **ATONEMENT LUTHERAN SCHOOL'S PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

God has given the primary responsibility of raising and educating children to parents/guardians. The school therefore functions in a supporting role. The level of success of your child's education largely depends on the cooperation between parents/guardians and teachers. Therefore, upon enrolling, families are asked to read this handbook and sign the Atonement Lutheran School's Partnership Agreement form on the last page of this document. The roles and responsibilities of teachers, parents/guardians, and students are outlined as follows:

#### **As a teacher at Atonement Lutheran School, I agree to:**

1. Faithfully teach God's Word in truth and purity, and instruct children on how it applies to his/her life.
2. Help all students in the best way I know how and do whatever I can for them to learn, not only teaching them about God's love in Jesus, but showing it to them.
3. Constantly monitor the strengths, weaknesses, and progress of my students, both academically and behaviorally, and provide extra academic support on a regular basis.
4. Consistently enforce the code of conduct and school-wide procedures.
5. Communicate respectfully and regularly with my students' parents/guardians, and make myself available to students and families for any concerns they might have.
6. Form meaningful and positive relationships with my students and their families, and collaborate with my colleagues.

#### **As a parent or guardian of a child at Atonement Lutheran School, I agree to:**

1. Be open to encouragement from Atonement Lutheran Church and School staff regarding the Christian education of my child, and my growth in faith and in knowledge of God's Word.
2. Help my child in the best way I know how and do whatever it takes for them to learn.
3. Ensure my child is at school, in his/her desk, and ready to learn by 8:00/7:45 a.m.
4. Ensure my child is dressed in a clean uniform at the beginning of each school day.



5. Support Atonement staff by encouraging my child to follow the code of conduct and school-wide procedures.
6. Attend parent-teacher conferences, mandatory meetings, and communicate with my child's teacher regularly regarding my child's academic and/or behavioral progress.
7. Stay actively informed about important events and updates at Atonement.
8. Support the school and its staff with positive words and actions.
9. Allow pictures and/or videos of my child to be used for promotional purposes.
10. Support my child in the completion of homework by providing a regular time and place at night to work and then ensure my child leaves from home ready to hand in homework as he/she enters school each day.

**As a student at Atonement Lutheran School, I agree to:**

1. Live by Biblical principles as a redeemed child of God, abide by Atonement Lutheran School's Code of Conduct, and follow school-wide procedures.
2. Learn more than is expected in the best way I know how and help my fellow students do the same.
3. Demonstrate my Christian character by being a positive influence to the students around me, taking responsibility for my failures, and humbly encouraging others in my success.
4. Complete my homework each night to the best of my ability and leave home ready to hand in homework when entering school each day.
5. Do everything I can to arrive for school on time, and be sitting in my seat ready to learn by 8:00/7:45 a.m.
6. Be dressed in full uniform each day.

**ATTENDANCE**

At Atonement, regular attendance is required and parents/guardians are expected to ensure that their child is in school each school day. Regular attendance is the first step in ensuring academic success. In order for students to reach his/her personal best, they must show up and make their strongest effort at school each and every day. Our curriculum is an ambitious one; being at school every day is essential for students to keep pace. Missing school due to student illness or a death in the family are considered viable absences so we ask that you do not allow your child to miss a day of school except for serious illness or bereavement.

**Definition of an Absence:** A student is considered absent if he/she arrives after 10:00 a.m. Monday through Friday or leaves school before 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

**All Absences – “Excused” and “Unexcused” – Are Considered Absences:** Any scheduled school day your child does not attend is considered an absence. This includes student illness, with or without a doctor's and/or parent's/guardian's note, a death in the family, suspensions, or any day your child is absent from school. We expect and appreciate a call or note from the parent/guardian and/or doctor explaining the absence.

**Don't Miss School for Appointments:** Parents/guardians are responsible for scheduling their child's medical/dental appointments outside of school time. The best times for scheduling such activities are after school hours, Friday afternoons after 12:30/12:45 p.m., or days when school is not in session. In the rare case that a student has an appointment during school, he/she should not be absent for the entire day.

**Out of School Suspensions Are Considered Absences:** If students are absent from school due to a suspension that requires them to stay home from school, it is treated the same as absences. Students are responsible for the gathering and completion of all homework during this time.



**Early Pickups:** Students are expected to stay in school until the very end of the day; 3:30/3:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 12:30/12:45 p.m. on Friday. Early pickups are disruptive to the learning environment. Since we are intently focused on providing a high quality educational experience, we expect that students attend school for the full day. Please note that students being picked up early and without prior written notification will be marked absent for that entire day. Written notification includes a signed, hand-written note or an email. Texts and phone calls will be considered valid only if made before 9:00 a.m. that day.

**Reporting Absences:** If a child is not able to attend school, parents/guardians are asked to report the absence to the school office each morning before 8:00 a.m. so that the information can be passed along to the classroom teacher. If possible, arrangements should also be made for picking up the day's homework so that the child does not fall behind academically. If a child has not been reported absent by 9:00 a.m., the school office will call the parent/guardian. Please inform your child's teacher or the school office at (414) 871-1224 if your address, phone number, or emergency information has changed.

**Prolonged Absence Due to Illness:** In the case of a prolonged absence due to an extreme illness, communication from parents/guardians to the classroom teacher or school office is expected on a continual basis and shall include a doctor's note. A child under a physician's care following a communicable disease (chicken pox, mumps, etc.) must have a medical release form signed by the physician before returning to the classroom.

#### **Attendance – Consequences:**

- **5 absences in a year** are considered problematic. The parents/guardians will have a meeting with the child's teacher and discuss ways to ensure better attendance.
- **10 absences in a year** are considered a serious issue. The parents/guardians will be called to meet with the assistant principal. An action plan will be developed and discussed with the parent.
- **15 absences in a year** are considered a chronic issue and will result in a meeting with both the assistant principal and principal. The Truancy Abatement and Burglary Suppression (TABS) program will be contacted. At this point, the purpose will be to discuss your child's future at Atonement.

#### **TARDINESS**

Success in school, as in life, starts at the beginning of each day. Tardiness and/or not being ready to begin school on time is not acceptable. It results in students missing essential instructions, disrupts the learning of others, and ultimately puts student's academic success at risk. Therefore, every tardy your child acquires will result in a consequence.

**Definition of Tardiness:** The school doors open at 7:30 a.m. 4K-6<sup>th</sup> grade students are expected to be in their classroom by 8:00 a.m. 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students are expected to be in their classroom by 7:45 a.m. Students who arrive after their expected time will be considered tardy. There is no distinction between excused or unexcused tardies. All tardies, regardless of circumstance, will be counted.

#### **Tardiness – Consequences:**

- **0-10 tardies** are considered late. Consequences will be issued by the teacher.



- **10-14 tardies** are considered problematic and will result in a meeting between the parents/guardians and the child's teacher to discuss possible solutions.
- **15 tardies** are considered a serious issue. A one-hour detention will be served at the discretion of the teacher.
- **20+ tardies** are considered a chronic issue and will result in a meeting with the assistant principal and/or principal who will issue all further consequences.

Failure to complete the appropriate consequences above may result in a student's suspension. Should a student exceed thirty (30) tardies in a school year, there will be a scheduled meeting with the assistant principal and/or principal to discuss their future at Atonement.

### **HOMWORK POLICY**

All successful people spend extra time working to improve themselves beyond the minimal requirements of a specific task. We hope to instill these habits in our students—teaching them to maximize their learning potential both inside and outside of regular class time. Therefore, we require students to practice what they have learned at school by completing homework. Thorough, neat, accurate, prompt, and carefully completed homework is the expectation.

Circumstances may arise that could interfere with the completion of an assignment. In such cases, parent's/guardians must contact the teacher before 8:00 a.m. the following school day in order to receive an extension. In all such cases, it is **solely up to the teacher** as to approve the extension or not. The teacher's decision is to be respected. If a student is absent, he/she will need to complete the homework no later than one day after returning to school (unless other arrangements have been made with the teacher). **Please refer to your child's teacher's homework expectations and guidelines.**

### **PROMOTION / RETENTION / GRADUATION POLICY**

Atonement Lutheran School has high standards for promotion. It is not automatically assumed that students will pass from one grade to the next. The student must earn promotion by demonstrating mastery of the essential knowledge and skills. Students may not be promoted if one or more of the following requirements are not met:

- The student performs significantly below grade-level standards.
- The educational team assesses the student's maturity and academic progress to be below grade-level standards.
- The middle school student fails two or more of his/her core classes for the year (i.e. science, math, social studies, English and language arts, also known as ELA).
- The middle school student obtains a cumulative grade below a C- (1.75 GPA).

Atonement may promote a student to the next grade level on the condition that the child successfully completes a summer program approved by the school (Note: summer program costs are at the family's expense unless covered by Milwaukee Parental Choice Program).



Elementary parents will receive notice by the end of the second quarter if a student is struggling to meet grade level expectations. Final promotion decisions will be made by the administration. The school reserves the right to make exceptions to this policy given special circumstances.

### **ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Students must be age appropriate to enroll into Atonement Lutheran School. This policy follows state law. A child must be 5-years-old by September 1 in the state of Wisconsin to be eligible for 5-year-old kindergarten.

### **USE OF IMAGES**

The word “images” is used to include photographs, digital photographs, webcam, mobile phones, and film and video recordings. Images may be used for school publications and/or the school website as indicated below:

- The school will only take and use images that are considered appropriate and not open to misuse.
- If an image is used, the child’s name **will not** be published. If the child’s name is to be used, **specific consent by a parent/guardian will be requested.**
- Children will be made aware of why his/her picture is being taken and how it will be used.
- Images will be securely kept by the school.
- Images of children from the school will not be used to illustrate controversial subjects.
- Images of the children may be posted throughout the school to celebrate the student’s/classroom’s accomplishments.

### **YEARBOOK / SCHOOL PICTURES**

Individual pictures of children are taken each year in September as a service to parents who want a record of their child’s growth or who want to share their child’s picture with others. In the spring, a school-wide yearbook is printed with pictures to include school activities. Parents/guardians will be notified at the end of the year when these books are available for purchase.

### **UNIFORMS**

Students are expected to be dressed in a clean, full uniform each school day per school board policy. Students not in full uniform may receive a consequence in accordance with individual classroom procedures. Uniform expectations are as follows:

#### **3K- 5K**

Atonement logo long or short sleeve polo shirt \*

Khaki, knee-length shorts (May 1st - September 30th) **Note Well: Cargo shorts are not permitted**

Khaki pants, knee length khaki skirt, or knee length khaki jumper

White or black socks (with khaki pants), white tights, ankle or knee socks (with khaki skirt or jumper)

Black or brown dress/casual shoes (no boots, athletic shoes, moccasins, or slippers)

#### **1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

Atonement logo long or short sleeve polo shirt \*

Atonement logo sleeveless V-neck sweater vest \*

Atonement logo long sleeve button down sweater \*

White collared long or short sleeve dress shirt (no polo) worn with Atonement logo sweater and/or vest



Atonement tie (to be worn with white shirt and Atonement logo sweater and/or vest) \*\*

Khaki, knee-length shorts (May1st - September 30th) **Note Well: Cargo shorts are not permitted**

Khaki pants, knee length khaki skirt, or knee length khaki jumper (Gr. 2 only must wear brown or black belt with pants)

White or black socks (with khaki pants), white tights, ankle or knee socks (with khaki skirt or jumper)

Black or brown dress/casual shoes (no boots, athletic shoes, moccasins, or slippers)

### **3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Atonement logo sleeveless V-neck sweater vest \*

Atonement logo long sleeve button down sweater \*

White collared long or short sleeve dress shirt (no polo) worn with Atonement logo sweater and/or vest

Atonement tie \*\*

Khaki, knee-length shorts (May1st - September 30th) **Note Well: Cargo shorts are not permitted**

Khaki pants (khaki-colored jeans and cargo pants are not acceptable) or khaki knee length skirt

Brown or black belt (with khaki pants)

White or black socks (with khaki pants), white tights or white knee socks (with khaki skirt)

Black or brown dress/casual shoes (no boots, athletic shoes, moccasins, or slippers)

*\* These items are exclusive to Atonement Lutheran School and must be ordered and purchased through our on-line order website ([atonementuniforms.itemorder.com](http://atonementuniforms.itemorder.com)). Orders will be delivered pre-packaged to school.*

*\*\* Ties can be purchased from school for \$5.*

**Note:** The only acceptable jewelry to be worn are watches and earrings, provided that the earrings are no larger than the size of a dime.

**Only white underclothing is to be worn under the uniform**

## **DISCIPLINE**

*“Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.” 1 John 4:11*

Christ’s love for us as revealed in the Bible is our guide for discipline at Atonement Lutheran School. Out of love for our Savior and respect for others, students are expected to conduct themselves as Christians at all times. This can be achieved only through continued study of the God’s Word, which is the means through which the Holy Spirit creates faith and causes it to grow in the hearts of believers. Out of such faith grows the desire to obey God’s commands and to show love for others. Thus the goal of the disciplinary process is to develop self-discipline motivated by love for the Lord and for humanity.

In practice, this self-discipline reveals itself when students honor and respect all members of the school staff. Moreover, it further reveals itself when students encourage one another, forgive one another, sacrifice for one another, and demonstrate God-pleasing humility and self-control. As the Scripture verse above instructs and reinforces, God’s love for us compels us to love others the way we are loved. Ultimately, all aspects of Atonement’s student discipline system are designed to achieve this goal.

We also believe that the learning environment is to be rigorously protected. We work to ensure that every child is safe (physically, emotionally, and intellectually) and can learn without needless disruptions. We have very high expectations for student behavior to create and preserve a focused learning environment.



Students are taught that they have many choices throughout the day. Many of the choices they make may result in something positive such as a good grade, a thank you from a classmate or teacher, or an extra opportunity afforded to them. However, when students fail to make positive choices, Atonement reserves the right to determine necessary consequences to promote appropriate changes in student behavior. The following are examples of specific consequences typically utilized at Atonement:

### **4K Behavioral Management Procedures**

#### **Teacher's Steps for Dealing with Misbehavior**

##### **1. Nonverbal Correction**

- ★ Let a student know to get back on task quickly without stopping class or interrupting the "flow" of the lesson.

##### **2. Positive Group Correction.**

- ★ Remind students what the expectation is.

##### **3. Anonymous Correction**

- ★ Give a chance for the student to correct it without publicly calling them out

##### **4. Private Individual Correction**

- ★ Talk to a student privately to remind them of what they should be doing

##### **5. Lightning Quick Public Correction**

- ★ Quickly redirect a student, but move on to the positive so that student doesn't take the spotlight

##### **6. Consequence**

- ★ A deduction (loss of a pom pom or ticket) is necessary because the student has not fixed their behavior.

#### **Levels of Consequence**

##### **1. Deduction (student will lose pom poms).**

- ★ The amount deducted may vary according to the level of infraction.

##### **2. Loss of Privilege**

- ★ The student may lose a recess, time off of gym play, etc. Serious behavior infractions may result in a non-participation in a class celebration or loss of a field trip.

##### **3. Isolation**

- ★ Student is distracting or has not fixed any of the misbehavior so they need to be isolated.

##### **4. Phone Call Home**

### **5K-8th Grade Management Procedures**

1. Students sit or stand in an isolated location to think about behavior.
2. Students write documents or copy papers focused on behavioral improvement.
3. Students lose privileges including field trips, incentive trips, recess, athletic participation, or other enrichment opportunities.
4. Students serve detentions after school where they "work off" or reflect on their poor choices.
5. Any student may receive a detention for inappropriate behavior. The level of consequence increases the older the student gets:



- a. Most detentions will be served after school from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. the day after they are received.
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade detentions will be served with their teacher unless stated otherwise.
  - ii. 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade detentions will be served with the assistant principal unless stated otherwise.
  - iii. Detentions will not be served on Fridays. If a student receives a detention on Thursday, then they will serve it the following Monday.
- b. In the middle school, detentions 1-3, in a quarter are served as detentions.
- c. In the middle school, detention 4, in a quarter = 2 hour in-school suspension.
- d. In the middle school, detention 5, in a quarter = half day in-school suspension.
- e. In the middle school, detention 6, in a quarter = full day in-school suspension. A mandatory parent meeting will follow with the assistant principal. The child will not be able to return to class until the suspension has been served and the parents/caregivers have met with the assistant principal.
- f. In the middle school, detention 7, in a quarter = 3 day in-school suspension.
- g. Parents/Caregivers sit down with the assistant principal before the student is allowed to return to class.
- h. In the middle school, detention 8, in a quarter = 5 day out-of-school suspension.
- i. A mandatory parent meeting will follow with the assistant principal and/or principal. The future of your child at Atonement will be determined.

### **Suspension and Expulsion Policy**

Suspensions (the temporary elimination of educational services) and expulsion (the permanent elimination of educational services) are part of the student conduct due process. A serious incident of student misconduct or an accumulation of less serious misconducts may result in a suspension or expulsion with the ultimate purpose of identifying sin and moving the student to repentance so that the gospel and forgiveness can be pronounced.

Suspensions, in-school or out-of-school, will be issued by the administration. Parents/guardians will be notified the day a suspension is issued. The suspension must be served immediately. A student may return to class only after the length of the suspension has been served.

The assistant principal and/or principal may issue expulsions. The student must be removed from school immediately. Appeals must be made in writing to the disciplinary committee no more than ten (10) days after the notice of expulsion, after which parents/guardians will be notified of the findings.

At times, when a student's behavior is particularly disruptive or disrespectful it becomes necessary to remove students from the academic environment. Such removal is based upon our belief that behavioral and moral development are of primary importance and ultimately crucial for student growth. Therefore, we regularly enforce in-school and out-of-school suspensions. We also issue expulsions when deemed necessary. Behaviors which may lead to an automatic suspension or an expulsion include but are not limited to the following:

1. Receiving too many detentions
2. Verbal or non-verbal defiance that seriously disrupts a safe or effective learning environment.
3. Physical or verbal harassment that is deemed as bullying or threatening behavior.
4. Repeated minor infractions accompanied by a refusal to repent.
5. Physical fighting or play-fighting to include but is not limited to throwing objects with intent to harm, hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, or spitting on.
6. Possession or use of a controlled substance or a substance that is otherwise illegal for the use of a minor.



7. Possession or use of a weapon, fake or real, without the consent of Atonement administration.
8. Possession or use of an item that has the ability to inflict or cause harm, jeopardizing the safety of the school.
9. Gross misuse of any form of media that is conduct unbecoming of a Christian.
10. Theft or unauthorized use of another person's property.
11. Extreme or repeated cases of vandalism which include but are not limited to: writing on, damaging, or defacing any part of the school building, school grounds, furniture, non-consumable text books or other property of the school. Students and/or parents/guardians will be responsible for the cost of cleaning or repairing all defaced or damaged property.

### **CELL PHONE USE**

Cell phones (including any electronic communication device) are not allowed in a student's possession at any time during school from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. If parents/guardians allow their child to have a cell phone, the student must turn it off and hand it in to the teacher **BEFORE** each school day begins. It will be held in a secure place. The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.

If a student stays remains after school in the classrooms OR at a practice, they are NOT allowed to use their cell phones. If a student needs to contact their parent/guardian, they may use a school phone with permission or a teacher's cell phone under direct supervision of the teacher. If this rule is broken, the cell phone will be taken as follows:

- **1<sup>st</sup> offense** – the phone will be returned only to the parent when they are able to retrieve it.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> offense** – the phone will be returned to the parent at the end of the quarter.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> offense** – the phone will be returned to the parent at the end of the school year.

Any cell phone or communication device that is activated, used, or displayed in a way that endangers (physically, emotionally, verbally) themselves or another student will be held, awaiting disciplinary action.

Student's use of cell phones during non-school hours/days will fall under their parent's/guardian's supervision and responsibility.

### **SCHOOL TELEPHONE USAGE**

School telephones are available for student's use – only in case of emergency. A teacher or staff member must give permission before a student is allowed to make a call. Calling parents for forgotten lunches or homework, or permission to go to a friend's home is not considered an emergency. Children may use the telephone if the school has changed its schedule affecting after school activities. Planning ahead is essential for reducing the number of telephone calls made by students. As stated previously, **no cell phones may be used by the students during the school day.**

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY / CHEATING**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense and may result in a student receiving a detention or suspension. If a student copies, shares answers, or puts his/her name on another student's paper, it is considered cheating. Additionally, if a parent completes any part of the homework without teacher approval, it is considered cheating.

Plagiarism is also academic dishonesty and involves the stealing of someone else's ideas or words and presenting them as one's own. It is the imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author (or person) and presented as one's original work. This is considered cheating.



The first time cheating happens, the teacher will notify parents/guardians, a grade of zero will be given to the student on the assignment and the student will receive a detention. The student will serve the detention redoing the assignment. It is up to the teacher's discretion as to whether or not credit will be given. If a student cheats or plagiarizes a second time, the matter will require a conference with the student, parent/guardian, and the assistant principal and/or principal. Continued cheating and plagiarism are grounds for suspension, retention, or expulsion, as deemed by the administration.

### **NON-HARASSMENT POLICY**

Formal reporting of harassment should first be done in writing and given to the classroom teacher. The report should include the names of all those involved and a detailed description of the harassment. The teacher will thoroughly investigate the reported incident. The results of the investigation will be filed and a copy given to the parent/guardian and the assistant principal. If the issue is not resolved, the assistant principal will further investigate. From there a more thorough investigation will be conducted, reported, and kept on file. Finally, if the issue has not been resolved in a satisfactory manner, the principal will aid in finding a peaceful resolution.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT / ACTIVITY**

A student of Atonement Lutheran School may not engage in any sexual activity. Knowledge of such activity is grounds for suspension or expulsion. Pregnancy will result in immediate expulsion for both the girl and/or boy followed by pastoral counseling. Participation in homosexual activities is also grounds for expulsion.

Public displays of affection, also known as PDA, is defined as kissing, inappropriate touching, or sexual dialogue (including written notes or graphic pictures). PDA is grounds for disciplinary action. Offenses will follow the detention or suspension process.

### **NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Atonement Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, sex, national and ethnic origin and grants them all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Atonement Lutheran School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, or athletic and other school programs.

Parents/guardians and students are not to promote or disseminate information for other religious beliefs or morality, which is contrary to the religious beliefs and morality advocated by Atonement Lutheran Church and School. This includes, but is not limited to, the dress, statements, and actions of parents/guardians and students while on campus, as well as, at school activities. Atonement Lutheran School reserves the right to dismiss a student at any time on account of the parent's/guardian's action in disseminating or promoting religious beliefs or morality contrary to those taught at Atonement Lutheran Church and School.

### **GOVERNANCE**

Atonement Lutheran School is governed by a school board which consists of members of Atonement Lutheran Church or another church in fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).



The principal is responsible for overseeing and managing the day-to-day administration of the school and is responsible to the school board; which reports to the church council of Atonement Lutheran.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

The administrative assistant, Mrs. Gail Demitros, will be available daily in the office from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Please schedule your office activities during those times. The school office is located at the north end of the school in the administrative wing of the building. The administrative assistant is the primary administrator of registration, records, fee collection, billing, and communications. She is responsible for the publication of Weekly Notes (a school newsletter) and important written correspondence. You may reach Mrs. Demitros via phone (414) 871-1224 or email at [gail.demitros@atonementmke.org](mailto:gail.demitros@atonementmke.org)

### **TUITION AND FEE PAYMENTS**

All fees are to be paid by the tenth day of each month in order to avoid a 5% late payment fee. If a family is experiencing financial difficulties, which prohibit them from maintaining their current payment plan, they are asked to contact the school office and submit an alternative plan in writing. Families who miss two consecutive payments without proper communication may have their child suspended from school until such time a payment is made or a plan is agreed upon. Report cards and school records will be withheld until all tuition and fees are paid in full. Students will not be considered registered for the next school year until all tuition and fees are paid.

Payment options are as follows: (Your choice was indicated on your registration form)

- ◆ Payment in full at the time of enrollment
- ◆ Nine-month plan – first payment due on enrollment day and on the first of each month  
October – May thereafter  
Personal payments – cash, check or money order

**Please note:** A \$25.00 fee will be assessed for each returned check for any/all school payments.

### **MILWAUKEE and WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAMS (MPCP/WPCP)**

School Choice is a city of Milwaukee/state of Wisconsin program providing tuition money for low-income families who live in the city of Milwaukee/state of Wisconsin allowing them to send their children to a private school. Atonement accepts Choice applications for the following school year only during the months of February through September from the first through the twentieth. Choice applications must be completed in full with supporting residence, birth, and income verification. These applications are available through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) website (<https://apps4.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>). Please call the school office for more details.

### **W-2 CHILD CARE PROGRAM**

The Atonement Early Childhood Center (ECC) provides a structured full time 3-year-old preschool program as well as a before and after school extended day care program. The ECC accepts private pay and the State of Wisconsin W-2 income based payments. For additional information or to determine W-2 eligibility, please contact the ECC Director, Ms. Jennie Schleiden at (414) 445-1011 to enroll.

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**



Lists for school supplies, which are not included in tuition fees, were included in a summer mailing. Extra lists are available in the office.

Please be advised that school rules prohibit students from bringing non-school related items to school unless the teacher grants permission. This includes electronic games, CD players, I-Pods, I-Pads, trading cards, toys or any item that may cause problems or disruptions during the school day. If students must have a cell phone, it will be turned in to the teacher/educational assistant at the beginning of each school day (please refer to the Cell Phone Policy). The school will not be responsible for personal items, which are not school related. Such items may be removed by the teacher and returned to the student or parent/guardian at a later time as determined by the teacher and/or assistant principal.

## **SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE**

Children are allowed to enter the school building at 7:30 a.m. unless there is a scheduled meeting, rehearsal, or practice. Siblings of students who must come to school early must have prior approval. If at any time, you wish for your child to enter the school building before hours, it must be communicated and approved with your child's teacher and/or the administration.

Before and after-school childcare is available through the Atonement Early Childhood Center (ECC) extended day care program. Please contact the ECC Director, Ms. Jennie Schleiden at (414) 445-1011 for more information or to enroll.

The faculty arrives by 7:15 a.m. and has a devotion every morning until 7:30 a.m. Calls made to the school before 7:30 a.m. are directed to voicemail. The office personnel will make note of all messages and communicate the information. A typical school day schedule is as follows:

- Monday - Thursday
  - 7:30 a.m. School and classroom doors open for students
  - 7:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. Ideal arrival time for students (Breakfast is served)
  - 7:45 a.m. Classes begin for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade (Tardies marked)
  - 8:00 a.m. Classes begin for 4K-6<sup>th</sup> (Tardies marked)
  - 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lunch and Recess
  - 3:30 p.m. School Dismissal for 4K-6<sup>th</sup>
  - 3:45 p.m. School Dismissal for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Friday
  - 7:30 a.m. School and classroom doors open for students
  - 7:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. Ideal arrival time for students (Breakfast is served)
  - 7:45 a.m. Classes begin for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade (Tardies marked)
  - 8:00 a.m. Classes begin for 4K-6<sup>th</sup> (Tardies marked)
  - 8:15 a.m. Chapel (families are welcome to attend)
  - 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Lunch
  - 12:30/12:45 p.m. All School Dismissal

## **SCHOOL DISMISSAL**

Students are dismissed from school through the north door facing the parking lot. Students who walk home are to leave the school grounds by the driveway that goes on to Ruby Avenue or the new back sidewalk by the north entrance. Students are not to go toward Sherman by walking between the church and the old Early Childhood Center (ECC) building. They are not allowed to walk under the church carport. All students who are being picked up by private vehicles must meet their rides on the school parking lot and not on Ruby Avenue. Drivers may choose to park on the street and walk on to the lot to pick up their rider. The best procedure for safely picking up students is as follows:

1. Slowly enter the lot from Ruby Avenue using the driveway closest to the school.



2. Please, follow directions of the parking lot attendant and stay within posted traffic cones.
3. Park in a lined parking place – DO NOT stop and pick up children without parking!
4. Exit using the driveway that goes on to Sherman which is between the church and the old ECC.
5. Instruct and remind your child repeatedly to watch for moving cars on the lot.

### **SCHOOL ENTRANCE**

Children who come to school on-time should enter the building between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. through the north doors located off the parking lot. You may walk your child to their classroom, however, if you wish to meet with the teacher – please contact him/her to set up a meeting time. (It is difficult for teachers to have quality meetings during this busy part of the day).

The north door is locked at 8:00 a.m. for security purposes. Anyone who wishes to enter the school at any other time should come to the north doors. All visitors must stop by the office to identify themselves and their purpose for visiting the school before going to any other part of the building. Visitors may be asked to wear a Visitor's Badge and will be escorted through the building.

### **SCHOOL COMMUNICATION**

Good communication is an important element in the partnership between the home and the school. Good communication begins at pre-registration meetings between the parents/guardians and the teachers and/or administration. It continues with attendance at meetings such as parent orientation and scheduled parent-teacher conferences. Teachers attempt to keep parents/guardians informed of their children's academic progress and classroom behavior on a regular basis. Various other means for regular communication with parents are as follows:

- **School Notes** will be e-mailed home each week to keep parents informed of school activities. This is the main tool for communicating school information. Paper copies will only be available upon request and if no internet access is available. Please notify the office with your request.
- **Classroom newsletters** may be sent home by teachers informing parents of classroom activities and assignments.
- **Report cards** are distributed at the end of each quarter. Teachers in grades 1 – 8 will send home weekly progress reports every Friday. Additionally, all parents have access to their child's grades through a Skyward account that is given to them at the beginning of the year.
- **Parent-Teacher Consultations** are scheduled after the first, second, and third quarters. Conferences are scheduled as closely as possible to times requested by parents/guardians. Attendance is mandatory – appointments not kept will be rescheduled. Additional conferences may be scheduled at any time by request of the teacher or the parent.
- **Other ways** to communicate regularly with the teachers include phone calls, texts, emails, written notes, and scheduled after school meetings. You may obtain telephone numbers and email addresses directly from your child's teacher.

### **PARENT / TEACHER CONSULTATIONS**

Conferences between the parents/guardians and teachers are an important component of the home-school partnership and are required at various points in the year. In order to form a partnership, parents and teachers must communicate regularly. Parent-teacher consultation days are scheduled following the



distribution of progress reports mid-first quarter (late September), at the end of the second quarter (mid-January), and again mid-fourth quarter. All parents/guardians are expected to attend.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to consult with their child's teacher at any time about questions or issues of concern to avoid misunderstanding. If you have a concern about something in the classroom, please go directly to the teacher rather than contacting the principal, the pastors, or discussing the issue with other parents. If the problem persists, then consult with the principal. Since it is very important for the sake of the child that parents/guardians and teachers present a united front, please do not discuss concerns in front of a child unless he/she is specifically invited to offer comments for the sake of information. Parents/guardians and teachers making negative comments about each other, especially in front of the child, accomplishes nothing.

## **PARENT / STAFF CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

Christ states, "My command is this: Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) If we humble ourselves for our neighbor as Christ humbled himself for us, then we truly strive to serve them in the capacity that is best for them. If we are rooted in Christ, then we can begin to see the needs of our fellow man and how we can best help them; educationally or otherwise. Below are steps that all adults should follow in order to resolve any conflict they may have with each other at Atonement.

1. Clearly identify the conflict problem between the two parties.
2. Determine best form of communication.
  - a. Text Message (only if the conflict is a matter of simple miscommunication or a lack of information)
  - b. Phone Call - This should be if a longer explanation is needed. It is possible that any electronic message could be misinterpreted and increase conflict.
  - c. After School pickup – The conflict could possibly be resolved with a brief face-to-face meeting after school.
  - d. Private sit-down – This should be scheduled for a convenient time for both parties.
3. Listen to each other. Allow each other to explain frustrations or concerns.
4. Explain the problem as you see it. Help them to see where you are coming from.
5. Identify common ground. Work to see if the common ground is enough to eliminate the differences of opinion.
6. Resolve the issue.
  - a. Both parties have reached an understanding and the conflict is over.
  - b. The parties don't agree, but the issue is not worth continued conversation. Respectfully agree to disagree. Continue to support each other in the spirit of Christian love.
  - c. The parties disagree but cannot seem to resolve the issue in a sit-down meeting.
    - i. Agree to meet again at a later date if the issue is not pressing.
    - ii. Agree to get administration involved so that a neutral party can assess the situation and help resolve the matter. NOTE: Involve the appropriate administrator according to the conflict. i.e. – academics (Mrs. Wigley) or discipline (Mr. Herrmann or Mr. Harms)

## **SCHOOL VISITORS**



Parents/guardians are welcome to visit their child's classroom if arrangements are made in advance with the classroom teacher. This includes morning drop-off. All visitors are asked to stop in the school office upon entering the building where the administrative assistant or a faculty member will assist those visiting. This practice provides for a higher level of building security and safety. Visitor name tags will be given at the office and are to be worn on site while visiting.

### **MISSION OFFERINGS**

Every year Atonement School adopts a mission to support. Offerings are collected every Friday during chapel and information on the mission is given to the students in order to acquaint them with different ways of spreading the Gospel in different places of the world. This regular offering gives the children an opportunity to worship God through the support of a mission. This also helps them develop the practice of Christian stewardship, putting God first in their lives.

### **BREAKFAST / HOT LUNCH PROGRAM**

All students will receive free breakfast and hot lunch throughout the 2018-2019 school year due to our direct certification process to determine automatic eligibility for free lunch. Those not eligible under direct certification will need to complete a free or reduced price lunch application. This applies even if a family qualifies for MPCP/WPCP (Milwaukee/Wisconsin Parental Choice Programs). Please direct any questions to Mr. Steve Schafer (414) 431-2086, our food service director, who will be available on enrollment day to assist with the application process. Mrs. Dana Block is the head on-site hot lunch server. Breakfast and hot lunch service will begin August 20, 2018.

We encourage students to eat healthy meals and snacks every day. Atonement's food service programs are serviced by the Milwaukee Center for Independence. The meals are nutritious, and lunch offers more fruit, vegetables, grains, meats/meat alternatives and milk. Students who participate in the program must take the required menu items. We ask that they not waste the food by throwing it away. Monthly menus are available from the school office. If students do not like the school meals, they are asked to bring lunch from home as necessary.

### **MILK**

Breakfast and lunch include one carton of low fat milk. Additional cartons of milk are available on a daily basis for \$.35 which is paid to the child's teacher. Milk cards good for 20 milks may be purchased from the office at any time for \$7.00. No reimbursement is given for lost milk cards so please ensure your child's card has his/her name on it and is kept in a safe place.

### **HEALTH / IMMUNIZATION**

State law (140.05 WI's Stats.) requires that all children entering an elementary school in Wisconsin for the first time be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, rubella and mumps. Verification of having chicken pox or receiving the varicella vaccine is also required. Certification of these requirements must be on file in the school and can be waived only if a properly signed health or religious exemption form is filed with the school. Failure to comply with state law may result in exclusion from the classroom. The school is required to submit immunization records to the district attorney who in turn enforces the state statutes. Please contact your doctor or city health department to make arrangements for having your child properly immunized before school begins. Direct any questions or updated immunizations to Mrs. Demitros at (414) 871-1224.

### **MEDICATION**



Students who use daily or seasonal medication during the day must have a Medical Authorization form on file. Medication will be administered to a student only with a signed Medication Authorization form on file indicating medication, dosage, and time of distribution. Children are never to have prescription medication stored in their desks, backpacks, or lunch bags. Teachers or staff may not give over-the-counter medication such as aspirin or cough drops without written permission.

### **EMERGENCY CLOSING**

Emergency closings are announced on local radio and TV stations such as AM 620 / WTMJ. Atonement is automatically closed if an announcement is made that Milwaukee Public Schools is closed for severe weather such as snow or cold. Please do not call the school to ask if it is closed. Listen to the radio, watch the news, or check online. If bad weather occurs once the school day is in session, classes will be conducted for the remainder of the day except in the case of extreme emergency. In case of bad weather parents/guardians may pick up their children early if necessary.

### **CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES / FIELD TRIPS**

Numerous activities to supplement the regular classroom instruction are provided for the children as a way of expanding their experiences, enriching their lives, and broadening their Christian outlook of the world. Children are encouraged to participate in co-curricular activities because they create wonderful memories and promote skill development. When available, Atonement offers the following co-curricular activities for students:

- Children's Choir
- Athletic Competition for boys and girls (cross country, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, track, cheerleading)
- Drama (public speaking)
- Musical and/or Theatrical Productions
- Spelling/Math Contests

Teachers also schedule field trips for which additional fees may be collected. If possible, buses are rented, otherwise, transportation is provided by classroom parents/guardians who have proof of insurance. Students must be in good academic and behavior standing to attend field trips. Students will not participate in a field trip without written parental consent.

### **PIANO / BAND LESSONS**

Piano lessons are offered at Atonement Lutheran School during the school day for children in grades 3-8. Younger children may be given lessons before or after school. Parents/guardians may obtain more information regarding scheduling by contacting Kevin Poston, Director of Music and Worship.

Band lessons are offered to students in grades 5-8 through Wisconsin Lutheran High School. Information will be available from the high school the first week of school. All students must be in good academic and behavior standing to attend these lessons.

### **CHOIRS / CHURCH SINGING**

Each classroom participates in choral singing during worship at Atonement Lutheran Church several times throughout the school year. The students practice in the classroom and in church and all students are expected and encouraged to be a part of the singing group during the service. Singing provides an excellent opportunity for children to improve their musical abilities as well as to enhance worship by singing praises to the Lord. Parents are to notify the classroom teacher or choir director in advance if the



child is unable to participate in the service. Proper respect, communication, and planning asks that the parents notify the classroom teacher or choir director in advance if the child will not be able to participate for the service.

**ATHLETICS / ATHLETIC FEES**

While Atonement has a physical education curriculum for children of all grade levels, most competitive sporting activities begin in fifth grade. Girls may participate in cross country, volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, and track. Boys may participate in cross country, basketball, wrestling, and track. An athletic policy governs all of the sports programs. Only students in good academic and behavioral standing may participate in the sports programs. Parents must attend an athletic meeting where paperwork will be signed and information will be shared by coaches and the athletic director(s).

Atonement does not require athletic fees in order to participate in any of the sports offered, but a **\$20 user fee is paid to defray phy. ed and technology costs**. Any damage or loss of Atonement property that is used is expected to be repaid in the form of replacement or reimbursement. Failure to replace or reimburse for damaged or lost equipment will result in your child being suspended indefinitely from any and all athletics until restitution is made.

**ATONEMENT LUTHERAN SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

I have read and understand the information that is shared in the Atonement Lutheran School 2018-2019 Family Handbook. I will sign, date, and hand in this last page of the document to my child's teacher or the school office to indicate that I am in agreement with the Atonement Lutheran School Partnership. I also understand that all educational services will be withheld from my child until I have signed and handed this last page into the school by the due date.

Parent's/Guardian's name (printed):

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print Clearly)

Parent's/Guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of my child: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print Clearly)



Name of my child: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Clearly)

Name of my child: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Clearly)

Name of my child: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Clearly)

Name of my child: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Clearly)