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**Summerville Catholic School
School Advisory Board**

Zero Tolerance for Bullying Behavior Policy

The Summerville Catholic School Advisory Board believes the following:

- Bullying is a serious issue that has damaging effects on our school and society.
- Bullying is NOT an acceptable behavior for members of our school community to treat one another.
- The Summerville Catholic community must recognize that bullying behaviors have different forms.
- There is a need to raise awareness that bullying happens within our school.
- Bullying is UNACCEPTABLE in society, and particularly, in our Catholic community.
- Bullying is a behavior and that behaviors can change.
- There is tremendous leadership potential of our students and an ability to make a difference in addressing bullying here at Summerville Catholic School.
- For the purposes of this policy, bullying is defined as a negative pattern of behavior exhibited by an individual or group of individuals toward a peer.

As our school mission states, "...As a Catholic school community, we believe in the uniqueness, dignity and potential of every student..." we believe that this requires mutual respect for all persons who are a part of the school. Consequently, we present the following policy to be instituted at Summerville Catholic School.

1. The principal is instructed to initiate a Zero Tolerance on all bullying behavior taking place on the part of any student of Summerville Catholic School. This includes but is not limited to the following forms of bullying: Verbal, Cyber, Written, and Physical.
2. All allegations of bullying will be investigated by the principal and/or staff.
3. All reports of bullying will remain anonymous so as to ensure all students being willing to come forward to report incidents to Summerville Catholic staff.
4. If an allegation is proven to be true, the principal will take action as follows:
 - i. First Instance: Parent Conference with Saturday Detention or In-school Suspension.
 - ii. Second Instance: 1 week suspension* of student.
 - iii. Third Instance: 2 week suspension* of student with counseling by a licensed practitioner.
 - iv. Final Instance: Student will be expelled from Summerville Catholic School.

*During all school suspensions, students will receive a "0" for all missed work, projects or tests/quizzes. They are responsible, however, for all missed material while on suspension.

5. The principal will immediately notify the parents once the student is suspended or expelled.
6. This policy provides opportunities for the principal to exercise fairness, common sense, discretion and alternatives for inappropriate behavior.

12 DECEMBER 2006
Approval Date

Msgr. E. Christopher Lathem
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