

# **Good Shepherd Lutheran School**

## **Wellness Policy on Nutrition and Physical Activity**

Good Shepherd Lutheran School strives to provide a well-rounded education for every child. This effort is reflected in both our Statement of Philosophy and our school goals as listed below:

**Statement of Philosophy:** Good Shepherd Lutheran Church established and maintains a Lutheran Elementary School in its midst with the thought of carrying out a program of unified Christian training. In the interest of such Christian training, our congregation is ready to take over the full responsibility of also offering what our government requires in the way of elementary education. Good Shepherd Lutheran School exists to assist parents in carrying out God's will concerning the Christian education of their children. Good Shepherd Lutheran School also exists as one of the agencies the church has established in carrying out the mission God has given to it. Good Shepherd Lutheran School further exists to give children the secular training needed in the world and required by the state. In letting God's infallible Word speak to the child in such a program of Christian education, we first of all want to impress upon him or her the Scriptural truths that all men are by nature dead in their sins and are eternally lost because of sin, without any ability to save themselves or to do anything that is spiritually pleasing in God's sight. These truths are not to be expounded merely in the direct study of God's Word, but are to be treated constantly as truths throughout every phase of instruction and training in the school. Our school is unique because it is able to focus all its attention, in both religious and secular training, on the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Against this humbling background of man's sin and its curses, Christian education brings to the child the joy-inspiring Scriptural truth of the Gospel, the message that God's incarnate Son, Jesus Christ, has redeemed all men from sin and its curses and won full salvation and eternal life for them as a free gift of His grace. It lets the child see this Gospel as the means through which the Holy Spirit has brought them to faith to enjoy all the blessings of salvation. It also points the child to this Gospel as the only means through which the Holy Spirit preserves them in the Christian faith and constantly fills their heart with thankful love to make them able and willing to strive to after those things which are pleasing in God's sight. While this Gospel is to be clearly unfolded in daily devotions and in special courses which involve the direct study of God's Word, it is also to be commended to the child through the Christian personality, example, and testimony of our Christian teachers and their fellow Christian students. Directly or indirectly this Gospel is to cast its light on all subject matter and activities which confront the child in the school's curricular and extra-curricular activities.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

To provide a quality Lutheran education which addresses the needs of the **whole child**.

## **Purpose and Goal:**

In the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress established a requirement that all school districts with a federally-funded school meals program develop and implement wellness policies that address nutrition and physical activity. Commonly called Section 204, it requires the development of a local school wellness policy.

Research shows that children and youth who begin each day as healthy individuals are better learners. Good Shepherd Lutheran School promotes healthy children by supporting a school-wide wellness policy. This policy includes guidelines for nutrition education, physical activity, nutritional guidelines for all foods and beverages available at school and other school-based activities. We believe that all students should possess the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy lifetime choices.

Good Shepherd's Wellness Policy is posted and updated on our website annually.

## **Nutrition Education:**

The primary goal of nutrition education is to influence students' eating behaviors. Schools will promote nutrition education throughout a students' K-8 educational program. Nutrition education is incorporated into a variety of curriculum areas. These curriculum experiences provide the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy food choices for a lifetime.

Health/Nutrition Education shall be offered as part of a sequential, comprehensive, hands-on learning based program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health and provide life-long habits of good health. Health/Nutrition Education will be integrated in all curricular areas including math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects.

Curriculum will include:

- Basic instruction based on the food pyramid based on the recommendations of the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, an organization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, established in 1994 to improve the nutrition and well-being of Americans.
- Developmentally appropriate activities which reinforce a healthy living style.
- Promote fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices.
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (physical activity-exercise.)
- Links with school meal programs, other school foods, and nutrition-related community services.
- Teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food marketing.
- Expose students to Internet activities and information about healthy lifestyles such as [mypyramid.org](http://mypyramid.org).

## **Physical Activity**

The primary goals are to offer opportunities for students to experience a variety of physical activities and to teach the value of a consistent fitness program for better health, academic success and general personal well-being. Schools will promote opportunities for physical activity throughout the school day and during existing after-school programs. Physical activity, health and fitness education are incorporated throughout a students' K-8 education program.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School incorporates physical education in our curriculum, using the SPARK Physical Education and Activity program. The physical education teacher will meet with the students once a week to provide planned, sequential, K-8 curriculum that provides learning experiences, such as basic movement skills, physical fitness, rhythms, and dance, games, teamwork, and dual and individual sports (we incorporate SPARK PE curriculum). These will help to develop lifelong habits and love of being moderately to vigorously active. At least 50% of physical education class time is spent participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity. Good Shepherd Lutheran School will support intramural sports and encourage student participation. Good Shepherd also encourages physical activity during each recess period during the school day.

## **Nutrition Standards**

Students' lifelong health and nutritious eating habits are greatly influenced by the types and choices of foods and beverages available to them. School reimbursable meals meet the federal program requirements and nutrition standards.

### **Good Shepherd will meet nutrition standards by:**

- Serving lunches that meet, at a minimum, nutritional requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations.
- Engaging students in trying new foods sold through the school meal programs through taste-tests of new entrees and surveys on food preferences.
- Employing school food service staff that are properly qualified according to current professional standards and providing continuing professional development for all nutrition professionals in schools. Staff development programs should include appropriate certification and/or training programs for child nutrition directors and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility.
- Discouraging teachers and staff from rewarding students with candy and other sweets.
- Not selling candy or pop on school grounds.

### **Site**

- Students and staff shall have adequate space to eat meals in pleasant surroundings and shall have adequate time to eat, relax, and socialize.

- Cafeteria supervisory staff (teachers, aides, custodial staff, etc.) shall receive appropriate training in how to maintain safe, orderly, and pleasant eating environments.
- Cafeteria facilities will provide for a physical and aesthetic surrounding that constitutes a healthy, safe, caring culture that maximizes the health of students and staff.
- School personnel should discourage students from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some children's diets.
- For the safety and security of the food and facility, access to the food service operations are limited to food service staff and authorized personnel.
- Careful consideration should be given when scheduling tutoring, assemblies, organization meetings, classroom instruction, and other activities during mealtimes.

### **Nutrition Quality Meals**

- School lunches will be appealing and attractive to children.
- Lunches served will meet USDA guidelines which currently require no more than 30 percent of the total meal calories come from fat, and less than 10 percent from saturated fat. The meal will also meet 1/3 of the daily requirement for protein, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, iron, calcium, and calories.
- According to the Federal Lunch Program, foods of minimal nutritional value are prohibited from being served or sold in elementary schools. Foods of minimal nutritional value as defined by USDA include carbonated beverages, water ices, chewing gum, hard candies, jellies and gums, marshmallow candies, taffy, licorice, spun candy, and candy coated popcorn.
- Whether or not to allow food and beverages to be consumed in the classroom during the school day will be an administrative decision. If allowed, the Wellness Policy guidelines should be followed.
- Drinking fountains/water bottle filler stations will be available for students to get water for meals and throughout the day.

### **Meal Times/Scheduling**

- School administrators will make every attempt to provide at least 20 minutes for lunch from the time the student is seated, as outlined by the National Association of State Boards of Education.
- Class schedules should accommodate meal periods at appropriate times, e.g., ideally lunch should be scheduled between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Careful consideration of the school lunch environment should be taken into account when scheduling recess.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands before and after eating.

## **Other School-Based Activities**

### **Classroom Rewards**

Foods commonly used as rewards (such as candy, cookies, donuts, etc.) can contribute to health problems for children, e.g., obesity and cavities. Food rewards provide unneeded calories and displace healthier food choices. Rewarding with food can interfere with children learning to eat in response to hunger and satiety cues. This teaches children to eat when they are not hungry as a reward to themselves and may contribute to the development of eating disorders. Strong consideration should be given to using non-food rewards.

### **Classroom Celebrations**

Good Shepherd can help promote a positive learning environment by providing healthy celebrations that shift focus from the food to the child. Every attempt should be made to serve healthy goods and beverages in age-appropriate portions during classroom celebrations. Teachers routinely request healthy food options for any classroom celebrations (Christmas parties, Valentine's parties, etc.).

### **School Fundraising**

Raising money presents a constant challenge for all schools. Good Shepherd fundraisers help to pay for computers, field trips, athletics, and other programs that educate and enrich young lives—important programs that are not always covered by the school budget. Fundraisers should make every effort to include healthy alternatives. Education needs to play an active role in this planning. In order to educate the individuals that are responsible for the planning and selection of items to be sold through these fundraisers, the Wellness Advisory Council will be available to assist these groups as to possible healthy alternatives. Every effort should be made to explore and incorporate healthy foods into the fundraising process as well as to explore non-food alternatives.

### **Health Services**

Health services will be provided for all students in a school setting to assess, protect, and promote health, to provide services in harmony with community, parents, and other constituencies and to ensure all students have access to services. Good Shepherd has an array of comprehensive health and wellness services that are provided by our contracted VNA school nurse, school staff, and community partners. Parents will be educated and informed of the availability and variety of health services for their children.

### **Physical Activity and Punishment**

Teachers and other school community personnel will not use physical activity (e.g. running laps, pushups) or withhold opportunities for physical activity (e.g. recess, physical education) as punishment.

### **Daily Recess**

All Good Shepherd students, K-8 will have at least 15 minutes a day of supervised but unstructured recess, preferably outdoors, during which supervising staff should encourage moderate to vigorous physical activity verbally and through the provision of space and equipment. School staff should discourage extended periods (e.g. periods of two or more hours) of inactivity. When activities such as mandatory school-wide testing make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, staff should give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

### **Staff as Role Models**

School staff should model healthy eating behaviors and engage in physical activity on a consistent basis.

### **Communication with Parents**

- Good Shepherd will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children.
- Good Shepherd will encourage parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks.
- Good Shepherd teachers will be encouraged to provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities before, during, and after the school day and support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school. Such supports could include sharing information about physical activity and physical education through a website, newsletter, or other take-home materials, special events, or physical education homework.

### **Free and Reduced Priced Meals**

Good Shepherd will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to and will also prevent the overt identification of students who are eligible for free and reduced priced school meals.

### **Marketing Products on Campus**

Long-term wellness requires significant public and private participation and should be encouraged. Therefore, partnerships between Good Shepherd and businesses is encouraged and appropriate business sponsorship of educational activities that promote educational well-being of students is encouraged. However, such partnerships should not be designed to threaten the health, wellness, and physical well-being of the child.

If for medical reasons a student cannot adhere to the guidelines in the Good Shepherd School Wellness Policy, a written request for exemption should be submitted to the school nurse. A care plan will be developed to meet that student's individual needs and appropriate staff will be informed of the necessary accommodation.

## **Monitoring and Policy Review**

## **Monitoring**

The school administration, faculty, Board of Education, and the Wellness Committee will ensure compliance with nutrition and physical activity wellness policies.

School food service staff will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and will report on this matter to the committee upon review.

The wellness policy committee will develop a summary report every three years on the compliance with the established nutrition and physical activity wellness policies, based on input from faculty, staff, and students.

## **Policy Review**

To help with the initial development of the Good Shepherd wellness policy, the wellness committee conducted a baseline assessment of the school's existing nutrition and physical activity environments and policies. The results of those assessments were compiled to identify and prioritize needs.

In accordance with the Nebraska Department of Education guidance, assessments will be repeated every three years to help review policy compliance, assess progress, and determine areas in need of improvement. As part of that review, the school will review the nutrition and physical activity policies; provision of an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity; and nutrition and physical education policies and program elements. The wellness committee will revise policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation as needed.

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