

# St. Agnes Catholic Church

## Religious Education (CCD) Program Handbook and Registration



**St. Agnes Catholic Church**  
**Faith Formation Office**  
**1910 North Randolph Street, Arlington, VA 22207**

Dear parents of children in Religious Education,

I want to welcome you to a new year of our Religious Education program. We always remember that you, as parents, are the primary teachers of your children in everything, especially the faith. Last year was a particularly hard year for you as parents but thank God we all persevered. We wish to thank you in advance for caring for your children enough to educate them in the Faith. Our CCD program is designed to supplement, not replace, the faith formation your children receive at home. Our goal is to provide those who are already baptized a continuous education of the Catholic faith. We are blessed to have outstanding parents and catechists who make this important task of bringing children closer to Christ and His Church possible.

I would like to encourage you to work with your children, help them with their homework in the My Catholic Faith Delivered program and review the material assigned each week. In particular, it is very important to pray regularly with your children, so that they will not only learn their prayers, but that prayer will also become an important part of their daily life and help you all in your relationship with our Lord.

Also, it is of course, vitally important that you attend Mass with your children every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation (or online if health conditions require). The Mass is the summit of our Faith and therefore should become the center of our lives. By praying and attending Mass with your children, you help foster their relationship with God. Prayer is the primary means of obtaining grace for ourselves and for those we teach.

This *Parent-Student Handbook* explains our program, philosophy, and expectations.

After reviewing the **Handbook** and the **CCD Calendar**, fill out the registration form and return it to the Faith Formation office along with the following forms:

- **Photo, press, audio and electronic media release**
- **St. Agnes CCD phone directory inclusion/exclusion**
- **Handbook Acknowledgement form**
- **Zoom Consent for Online education platforms (In case we offer further online education)**

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or problems. My email is [dff@saintagnes.org](mailto:dff@saintagnes.org) or call me at 703-527-1129.

Lisa Orosa  
Director of Faith Formation

**Mission:**

The mission of our Religious Education Program at St. Agnes Catholic Church is to look upon each child as created in the image and likeness of God and as a reflection of His goodness. Our program exists to evangelize the students and their parents in the gospel of Jesus Christ in order to deepen their awareness and understanding of God's loving presence in their lives, to strengthen their relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to provide them with opportunities to live and give witness to their Catholic faith.

The core elements listed below form the foundation and strength of the St. Agnes Religious Education Program. Through the application of these we seek to cultivate the hearts, minds and souls of our students to become the person God created and called them to be.

**Parents' role:**

Parents are a child's first teacher. Love of God, prayer and the Catholic Faith are taught to a child in their home and these lessons are reinforced by their parent's example. The St. Agnes CCD program and the Faith Formation office strive to work alongside parents to help them educate their children with a formal, structured and planned program of catechesis and formation. **This program should complement, not replace, the Catholic lessons children should receive in the home.**

All Christian education finds its source within the sacramental life of the Church. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that children are given the opportunity to go to Confession and attend weekly Sunday Mass. Knowledge of the Catholic Faith that is not upheld by the practice of the sacramental life is empty knowledge. CCD classes complement the sacraments and Mass, but do not replace them. Please ensure that your children participate in the life of the Church.

## **Attendance**

### **Attendance:**

Regular and consistent attendance in the CCD program is essential in helping students master knowledge of their faith. Poor attendance can negatively impact a student's ability to master this knowledge. Parents set a good example by **making class a priority**. Please inform the Catechist or the DFF if your child/children will be absent.

Students are expected to be punctual and prepared for class. Students should arrive on time and have completed any homework assigned.

Student's Role: Students should be respectful to their teacher and fellow students and conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a classroom environment.

### **Tardiness:**

Tardiness can be a serious disruption to the class. We only have one and a quarter hour per week, so we appreciate your cooperation in getting your child/children to class ON TIME each week.

**Early withdrawal from class:** If a child must leave class early, a parent is required to inform the DFF Lisa Orosa, at drop off, so that the child can be brought from the classroom to the front office/door for pickup.

### **Class Cancellations:**

Please note that Religious Education classes follow the Arlington County school closings for Inclement Weather.

In the event of inclement weather, check WTOP for St. Agnes CCD class closing.

### **Policies and Procedures:**

1. Students are reminded that all property and possessions found in the classroom are to be left untouched. Desks are not to be moved from their allocated position.
2. No food or drink, including chewing gum is allowed in the classrooms because of food allergies.
3. Items that could cause injury to a student or others (including dangerous toys) are not permitted in the building.
4. Every student has the right and privilege to learn in a classroom where students are well behaved. Similarly, every catechist has the right to teach

- in such an environment. In the event a student does not exhibit proper behavior, the catechist will call upon the Director of Faith Formation to remove the child from the classroom. If the child does not attempt to refrain from the improper behavior, the DFF will enlist the support of the parents to rectify the situation.
5. If a child must leave class early, a parent is required to inform the DFF, Lisa Orosa, at drop off so that the child can be brought from the classroom to the front office/door for pickup.

**Dress Code:**

Students should dress comfortably according to the weather, but modesty in dress should always be maintained. Articles of clothing with inappropriate images or sayings (drugs, alcohol, profanity, weapons) are not permitted. Short shorts, bare midriffs, (girls) or low hanging pants (boys) are not permitted. Hats must be removed before entering the building.

**Electronic devices:**

Students who bring cell phones to class must keep these devices turned off and out of sight. At no time during class are students permitted to use these devices.

**Learning Disabilities/Health related problems:**

If your child has a learning disability or health related problem, please indicate this on the registration form. All information will remain confidential but will be passed on to the catechist for their assistance in teaching your child.

**Safe Environment Training:**

All program employees, staff and volunteers who have direct contact with children are subject to a Police background check, fingerprinting and the completion of a VIRTUS seminar.

St. Agnes Religious Education program participates in and adheres to the Safe Environment Training Program – Circle of Grace. This is a program with age appropriate lessons on the topic of personal safety. Catechists in the program are responsible for administering these lessons, the curriculum for which is provided by the Arlington Diocese. These lessons are presented in the fall of the school year. Parents will be provided with an Opt-Out form by the Director of Faith Formation if they do not wish their child to participate in this program.

**Prayers to Memorize:**

1 <sup>st</sup> grade	The Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Guardian Angel Prayer
2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	The Act of Contrition
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	The St. Michael's Prayer
4 <sup>th</sup> grade	The Act of Faith, Act of Hope, and Act of Charity
5 <sup>th</sup> grade	The Apostles' Creed, and Hail Holy Queen
6 <sup>th</sup> grade	The Divine Mercy
7 <sup>th</sup> grade	The Angelus and Memorare
8 <sup>th</sup> grade	The Come Holy Spirit prayer

**Textbooks/Online program:**

1<sup>st</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade use the *Faith and Life Series* published by Ignatius Press. They will receive the online book through My Catholic Faith Delivered. Children will not receive a textbook; parents will receive instructions to log in once registration has been completed.

8<sup>th</sup> grade will use *Chosen: your Journey towards Confirmation* by Ignatius Press.

St. Agnes has moved to a 9<sup>th</sup> grade Fall Confirmation. We will not have the sacrament of Confirmation in October 2021 but will have Confirmation in the Fall of 2022. Therefore, this year 2021/22 the Chosen program book will be taught to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Sacrament Preparation:**

Sacrament Preparation for children is a two-year process. Therefore, First and Second grades are required for a child to receive First Penance and First Holy Communion.

Seventh and Eight grades are required for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Special:** If a child has missed multiple years following First Holy Communion, they will need to renew their CCD instruction by attending 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**The following is a brief outline of the essential elements of each grade level curriculum:**

Grade One

Goal: To give the child a basic introduction to God, the life of Christ, prayer.

Themes:

- = Introduction to the Trinity (emphasis upon Jesus)
- = The plan of salvation and how the child fits into that plan – knowing, loving and trusting God
- = Mary, angels, saints
- = Basic prayers

Sequence of lessons:

Chapters	Lesson
1-8	Old Testament, God as Creator, Heaven as Home and the effect of original sin, the world awaits a Savior
9-21	The Incarnation, Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus
22-28	The Holy Spirit, the Church, Mary

Grade Two

Goal: To prepare second grade students for Confession and Holy Communion and to help them appreciate God’s love for them as manifested in these two sacraments.

Themes:

- = Preparation for reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion
- = Divine law and salvation history

- = God's mercy and love
- = Ten Commandments, Creation and Redemption
- = Order of the Mass and prayer

Sequence of lessons:

Chapters	Lesson
1-16	God's law and obedience in love
17-23	Forgiveness of sins through Christ's sacrifice
24-34	Preparation for heaven by reception of Jesus in Holy Communion and through a life in the Church

Grade Three

Goal: To show the student's membership among God's chosen people and role of the family as an important segment of God's entire family – the Church

Themes:

- = God's plan of salvation from Creation to the Incarnation and Redemption to the birth of the Church at Pentecost and our life in the Church
- = Importance of Confession, Holy Communion and Mass
- = Importance of prayer and love of God's law

Sequence of lessons:

Chapters	Lesson
1-7	Old Testament and covenant
8-14	Obedience of God's laws; Jesus' mercy in Confession
15-25	Life of Christ and Jesus in the Sacrifice of the Mass
26-30	Membership in the Church, relationship with Mary and the Communion of Saints



## Grade Four

Goal: To help the students understand their purpose in life and to come to an awareness of God's plan in history and society in order to lead all to Heaven, our true, eternal home.

### Themes:

- = God's plan of salvation from sin (salvation history)
- = Our participation in God's plan and how God assists us through His word, law, and the Church

### Sequence of lessons:

Chapters	Lesson
1-14	BC (before Christ) – from the Fall and the first murder to sin and God's calling of the Israelites and their leaders
15-30	AD ( <i>Anno Domini</i> or In the Year of Our Lord) – Jesus as the center of all history and the power of grace through the sacraments to do good

## Grade Five

Goal: To help fifth graders acquire a solid and specific knowledge of God and His church through knowledge of the Creed and by making theological distinctions in order to avoid errors that lead to a loss of love of God.

### Themes:

- = Thorough study of the Creed and the basic tenants of Catholicism
- = Emphasis on an understanding of theological definitions through the words of the Gospels, the prophets, and the prayers of the church

Sequence of lessons:

Unit	Lesson
1	God, the Father of all: The Old Testament and man's participation in and loss of God's life
2	God, the Son and Redeemer: Jesus Christ as true God and true man and His fulfillment of God's law
3	God, the Holy Spirit and Sanctifier: the universal call to holiness and witness in the church

Grade Six

Goal: To nurture a love for God's law and a love for the Holy Mass as our most perfect prayer to God. Students will also be formed to develop a sense of deep reverence and love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Themes:

- = God's law (especially the Ten Commandments) as the blueprint for a life of love
- = Emphasis upon the doctrine of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, especially in the Mass
- = The interaction between God's law and His gifts of grace given to the faithful to fulfill His law

Sequence of lessons:

Unit	Lesson
1	Ten Commandments; forming a moral conscience and intimacy with God
2	The Holy Mass; emphasis upon the Real Presence, the sacrificial nature of the Mass and an explanation of each part of the Mass

3	The Last Things: Death, judgement, Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory. Emphasis upon the great happiness of Heaven
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### Grade Seven

Goal: To assist the student in learning to treasure the seven sacraments as indispensable to a full Christian life of love and truth. To understand the nature of grace in the soul and its relationship to the life of virtue, reason, and faith.

Themes:

- = Grace as our link with God and His gift to bring us to eternal life with Him
- = Grace through the seven sacraments
- = Grace through revelation (prophets, Incarnation, the Church)
- = Grace and the life of virtue

Sequence of lessons:

Unit	Lesson
1	God reveals himself, the revelation of God through creation, the prophets, and to the chosen people
2	God becomes man. Jesus, true God and true Man, Priest and Sacrifice
3	God shares his Life. The operation of grace in our lives, in developing the virtues especially through each sacrament

### Grade Eight

Goal: To help the student know and love the Church as Christ's Body and the Magisterium as the definitive voice of Christ on earth manifested in the person of the Pope. The student will also be formed to trust and be strengthened by the Church in order to face the confusion of secularism in modern-day society with greater confidence.

Themes:

- = Church history – from its founding by Christ and its birth in the Holy Spirit
- = The four marks of the Church – one, holy, catholic, and apostolic
- = Church Fathers, Doctors of the Church, the saints and the role of the religious and laity in the Modern Age
- = The structure of the Church – hierarchy, the role of the Magisterium (teaching charism) vocations to the single, married, and religious life

Sequence of lessons:

Unit	Lesson
1	The Church. Christ's plan for the Church's structure and its necessary attributes; the Church's teaching authority
2	The Christian in the World. Religious and laity, Holy Orders, Marriage, and family life; call to Holiness
3	The last things. Death, Judgement, and the end of the world

**Assessments and Grading**

St. Agnes' Religious Education program follows the Standards of Learning set forth by the Diocese of Arlington. These guidelines help us to determine a child's knowledge of the Faith and therefore advance to the next grade. All students will be given a mid-term and final exam, according to their age and grade level. To help students prepare for these exams, weekly attendance at class or online is required and completion of the homework at the end of each online chapter.

At the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students will be given a comprehensive test that will determine their readiness to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the fall of their 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

# St. Agnes *Religious Education* (RE) Class Schedule – 2021-2022

(All Tuesdays in bold print, 6:30pm – 7:45pm)

<b>September 2021</b>			<b>21</b>  (Class 1)	<b>28</b>  (Class 2)	
<b>October 2021</b>	<b>5</b>  (Class 3)	<b>12</b>  <i>NO</i> RE Class Columbus Day	<b>19</b>  (Class 4)	<b>26</b>  (Class 5)	
<b>November 2021</b>	<b>2</b>  (Class 6)	<b>9</b>  (Class 7)	<b>16</b>  (Class 8)	<b>23</b>  <i>NO</i> RE Class Thanksgiving Break	<b>30</b>  (Class 9)
<b>December 2021</b>	<b>7</b>  (Class 10)	<b>14</b>  (Class 11)	<b>21</b>  <i>NO</i> RE Class Christmas Holiday	<b>28</b>  <i>NO</i> RE Class Christmas Holiday	
<b>January 2022</b>	<b>4</b>  (Class 12)	<b>11</b>  (Class 13)	<b>18</b>  <i>NO</i> RE Class Martin Luther King Day	<b>25</b>  (Class 14)	
<b>February 2022</b>	<b>1</b>  (Class 15)	<b>8</b>  (Class 16)	<b>15</b>  (Class 17)	<b>22</b>  <i>NO</i> RE Class President's Day	
<b>March 2022</b>	<b>1</b>  (Class 18)	<b>8</b>  (Class 19)	<b>15</b>  (Class 20)	<b>22</b>  (Class 21)	<b>29</b>  (Class 22)
<b>April 2022</b>	<b>5</b>  (Class 23)	<b>12</b>  <i>NO</i> RE Class Easter Break	<b>19</b>  <i>NO</i> RE Class Easter Break	<b>26</b>  (Class 24)	
<b>May 2022</b>	<b>3</b>  (Class 25)	<b>10</b>  (Class 26)	<b>17</b>  (Class 27) Last day of class		

**Please fill out the following pages and return to  
the Faith Formation Office.**

**2021-2022 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD) REGISTRATION FORM**

St. Agnes Catholic Church, 1910 North Randolph Street, Arlington, VA 22207  
Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade - All classes held In-Person on TUESDAYS, 6:30PM - 7:45 PM

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**FATHER/GUARDIAN**

1: \_\_\_\_\_

(First name)

(Middle Name)

(Last Name)

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTHER/GUARDIAN**

2: \_\_\_\_\_

(First name)

(Middle Name)

(Last Name)

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Marital Status of Parents:**

Married in the Catholic Church \_\_\_\_\_ Married Civilly \_\_\_\_\_ Separated \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_

If divorced, who has legal custody \_\_\_\_\_

Father remarried \_\_\_\_\_ Mother remarried \_\_\_\_\_ Father deceased \_\_\_\_\_ Mother deceased \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY CONTACT (other than parents):** \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish Information** (Parish registration is subject to verification by the Parish Office)

\_\_\_\_\_ We are registered parishioners Parish ID# (Offertory #) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ We are registered at another parish Parish Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee:** \$150 for one child \_\_\_\_\_ Out of Parish additional Fee: \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

\$225 for two children \_\_\_\_\_

\$300 for three children or more \_\_\_\_\_

(Checks made payable to *St. Agnes Parish*) **Volunteer Teachers and Aides: fees waived** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I have completed the *Protection of Children* background check and received *Virtus*<sup>TM</sup> training.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I have not, but would be interested in learning about The Diocese of Arlington Child Protection program.

Kindergarten will use the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* program. Children in grades 1-7 will be enrolled in *My Catholic Faith Delivered*, which is the online version of *Faith and Life* by Ignatius Press. A reverse classroom model will be used, with children completing the online chapter before they come to class. Additional content will also be taught in class. Grade 8 will use *Chosen* by Ignatius Press. All content is expected to be completed by June 30, 2022.

If you have any concerns, please contact DFF, Lisa Orosa at 703-527-1129.

**Child 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Nickname:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(First name) (Middle name) (Last Name)  
Grade as of Sept. 2021: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ School student attends: \_\_\_\_\_  
Health concerns (allergies, medications, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Learning behavior/additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child require special testing accommodations when taking standardized tests: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, please identify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sacraments:** Check which Sacraments this child has received:

\_\_\_\_\_ Baptism \_\_\_\_\_ Penance \_\_\_\_\_ Holy Communion \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmation

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**Child 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Nickname:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(First name) (Middle name) (Last Name)  
Grade as of Sept. 2021: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ School student attends: \_\_\_\_\_  
Health concerns (allergies, medications, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Learning behavior/additional information : \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child require special testing accommodations when taking standardized tests: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, please identify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sacraments:** Check which Sacraments this child has received:

\_\_\_\_\_ Baptism \_\_\_\_\_ Penance \_\_\_\_\_ Holy Communion \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmation

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**Child 3:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Nickname:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(First name) (Middle name) (Last Name)  
Grade as of Sept. 2021: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ School student attends: \_\_\_\_\_  
Health concerns (allergies, medications etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Learning behavior/additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child require special testing accommodations when taking standardized tests: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, please identify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sacraments:** Check which Sacraments this child has received:

\_\_\_\_\_ Baptism \_\_\_\_\_ Penance \_\_\_\_\_ Holy Communion \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmation

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Print additional copy of this page if needed.



## PHOTO, PRESS, AUDIO, AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA RELEASE

I authorize the **Catholic Diocese of Arlington**, its parishes, its schools, and/or the **Arlington Catholic Herald** to use and publish the photographs and/or videography in which I am featured, and/or audio recordings made of my voice.

I agree that the **Catholic Diocese of Arlington**, its parishes, its schools and/or the **Arlington Catholic Herald** may use such photographs, video, and/or audio recordings of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including, for example, such purposes as news, publicity, illustration, bulletin and Web content.

I have read and understood the above.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature, parent, or guardian \_\_\_\_\_

## ST. AGNES CCD PHONE DIRECTORY

Dear Parents,

A new student directory will be created this year for the benefit and use of all CCD families. Included is your child(ren) name(s), address, parents' names, and contact information (phone and email). Neither this nor any other personal information related to students or parents is shared with individual or parties outside the St. Agnes CCD program.

Please indicate your desire regarding inclusion in the St. Agnes CCD Directory:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**, please include information regarding my child(ren) and our family in this year's student directory.

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**, I would rather not be included in the student directory.

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# CONSENT FOR ONLINE EDUCATION PLATFORMS

2021-2022 School Year

I \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian), hereby give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ (child) to participate in the online educational platforms:

- Google Classroom/for Education (including Meet, Hangouts and GSuite)
- Zoom (Meeting)
- Go to Meeting
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

used by the Diocese of Arlington/ \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Parish/School) for the 2021-2022 school year.

- If my child uses the camera and microphone features on these platforms, my permission is implied and granted.
- I understand online educational meetings may be recorded per diocesan policy. If I do not wish for my child to be recorded, it is my responsibility to ensure the camera/microphone is turned off.
- I further understand that there is a potential of third-party interference (hacking), and therefore, I will be monitoring each session. I have spoken to my child about what to do should this occur.
- Students/parents/guardians should not take photos, screenshots, or record any video or audio, from these conference sessions.
- Should I choose to opt-out of online educational platforms, I must arrange with my parish faith formation leader to homeschool my child(ren).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Best Email Address for Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Cell Phone

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**HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM  
2021/2022**

After reading the Religious Education Parent-Student Handbook, we understand our responsibilities and will comply with all that is stated in the handbook.

Family Name (Parent's last and first names)

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Student(s) Signatures(s)

Student	Grade	Date

Parent's/Guardian Signature(s)	Date