



St. Croix Preparatory Academy Wellness Policy

St. Croix Preparatory Academy (hereto referred to as SCPA) is committed to the optimal development of every student. SCPA believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental and social success, we need to create positive, safe and health-promoting learning environments at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year.

Research shows that two components, good nutrition and physical activity before, during and after the school day, are strongly correlated with positive student outcomes. For example, less than-adequate consumption of specific foods including fruits, vegetables and dairy products, is associated with lower grades among students. In addition, students who are physically active through active transport to and from school, recess, physical activity breaks, high-quality physical education and extracurricular activities – perform better academically. Finally, there is evidence that adequate hydration is associated with better cognitive performance.

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

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



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

This policy applies to all students, staff and divisions at SCPA. Specific measurable goals and outcomes are identified within each section below.

I. School Wellness Committee

Committee Role and Membership

SCPA will convene a representative wellness committee (hereto referred to as WC) that meets at least four times per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation and periodic review and update of this wellness policy.

The WC membership will represent all school divisions and include (to the extent possible), but not limited to parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program; physical education teachers; health education teachers; school health professionals; mental health and social services staff; school administrators; school board members; community health professionals; and the general public. When possible, membership will also include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education coordinators. To the extent possible, the WC will include representatives from each school division and reflect the diversity of the community.

Leadership

The Chief Operating Officer or designee(s) will convene the WC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy and will ensure each division's compliance with the policy.

The designated officials for oversight are:

Jessica Skilling, Licensed School Nurse

Marianne Thole, Food Service Director

Terri Smith, Human Resources



The name(s), title(s) and contact information of these individuals are:

Name	Title or Role Relationship to the School	Email Address
Kelly Gutierrez	Executive Director of Finance and Operations	kellygutierrez@stcroixprep.org
Elizabeth Werner	Community Member Parent Lower School EA	elizabethwerner@stcroixprep.org
Jessica Skilling	Licensed School Nurse	jessicaskilling@stcroixprep.org
Marianne Thole	Food Service Director	mthole@stcroixprep.org
Nicole Dockham	School Counselor	nicoledockham@stcroixprep.org
Joann Karetov	Lower School Principal	joannkaretov@stcroixprep.org
Christine Mehlhorn	Parent Lower School Office Manager	christinemehlhorn@stcroixprep.org
Alec Brandt	Lower School PE Teacher	alecbrandt@stcroixprep.org



Anna Tiffany	Upper School PE/Health Teacher	atiffany@stcroixprep.org
Robin Moore	Middle School PE Teacher	robinmoore@stcroixprep.org
Terri Smith	Human Resources	terrismith@stcroixprep.org
Lauren Moore	Developmental Adaptive Physical Education (DAPE) Teacher	laurenmoore@stcroixprep.org
Rita Thorson	Dean of Students English/Leadership Teacher	ritathorson@stcroixprep.org
Susan Schultz	Parent	sschultz@msn.com
Claire North	Upper School Student	clairenorth@stcroixprep.org
Willa Lovett	Upper School Student	willalovett@stcroixprep.org



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

Implementation Plan

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

This wellness policy and the progress reports can be found at:
<http://stcroixprep.org/health-services-general-information/>

Recordkeeping

SCPA will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy on SCPA's central computer network. Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness policy.
- Documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public.
- Documentation of efforts to review and update the Local Schools Wellness Policy, including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods SCPA uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate in the WC.
- Documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification of requirements.
- The most recent assessment on the implementation of the local school wellness policy.
- Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the local school wellness policy has been made available to the public.



Annual Notification of Policy

SCPA will actively inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status. SCPA will make this information available via the school website and/or school-wide communications. SCPA will provide as much information as possible about the school nutrition environment. This will include a summary of SCPA's events or activities related to the wellness policy implementation. Annually, SCPA will also publicize the name and contact information of the school officials leading and coordinating the committee, as well as information on how the public can get involved with the school wellness committee.

Triennial Progress Assessments

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

- The extent to which divisions under the jurisdiction of SCPA are following the wellness policy.
- The extent to which SCPA's wellness policy compares to the Alliance for a Healthier Generations model wellness policy; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of SCPA's wellness policy.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is Marianne Thole, Food Service Director, mthole@stcroixprep.org.

The WC, in collaboration with individual divisions, will monitor divisions' compliance with this wellness policy. SCPA will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

Revisions and Updating the Policy

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



Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications

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

SCPA will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. SCPA will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the website, division newsletters, and Parent Weekly communications to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. SCPA will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community and accomplished through means similar to other ways that SCPA and divisions are communicating important school information with parents.

SCPA will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the wellness policy annually, at a minimum. SCPA will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports.

III. Nutrition

School Meals

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



All divisions within SCPA participate in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). SCPA also operates additional nutrition-related programs and activities including A la carte.

SCPA is committed to offering school meals through the NSLP/SBP programs, and other applicable Federal child nutrition programs, that:

- Are accessible to all students.
- Are appealing and attractive to children.
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings.
- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state and Federal statutes and regulations (SCPA offers reimbursable school meals that meet USDA nutrition standards).

SCPA will purchase local foods when possible. Including but not limited to: produce, proteins, maple syrup and honey.

SCPA will implement the following farm-to-school activities:

- incorporate local or regional foods into school meal programs.
- hosting promotions or special events, such as tastings, that highlight the local/ regional foods.
- reinforcing messages about agriculture and nutrition throughout the learning environment
- supporting schools in hosting school gardens and field trips to local farms

Promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least ten of the following SMARTER Lunchroom techniques:

- Whole fruit options displayed in attractive bowls or baskets (instead of chafing dishes or hotel pans).
- Sliced or cut fruit is available daily.
- Daily fruit options are displayed in a location in the line of sight and reach of students.
- All available vegetable options have been given descriptive names.
- Daily vegetable options are bundled into all grab-and-go meals available to students.



- All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students.
- Students select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal.
- White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers.
- Alternative entrée options are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas.
- A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area available to students.
- Student artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas.
- Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space décor and promotional ideas
- Daily announcements are used to promote and market menu options.
- Menus will be posted on the SCPA website and will include nutrient content and ingredients.
- The SCPA child nutrition program will accommodate students with special dietary needs.
- Students will be allowed at least 20 minutes to eat lunch, counting from the time they have received their meal and are seated.
- Students are served lunch at a reasonable and appropriate time of day.

Staff Qualifications and Professional Development

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

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day. SCPA will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes. Students will be allowed to bring and carry (approved) water bottles filled with only water



with them throughout the day. Hydration stations are located and available for use around the school building.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

SCPA is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus during the school day support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (e.g. “competitive” foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthy foods during the school day and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits. A summary of the standards and information, as well as a Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools are available at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-smart-snacks>. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation provides a set of tools to assist with implementation of Smart Snacks available at www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org.

To support healthy food choices and improve student health and well-being, all foods and beverages outside the reimbursable school meal programs that are sold to students on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards. These standards will apply in all locations and through all services where food and beverages are sold, which may include, but are not limited to, a la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores and snack or food carts.

Celebrations and Rewards

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, including through:

1. Celebrations and parties: SCPA will provide a list of healthy party ideas for parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas. Healthy party ideas are available from the Alliance for a Healthy Generation and from the USDA.
2. Rewards and incentives: SCPA will provide teachers and other relevant school staff a list of alternative ways to reward children. Foods and beverages will not be used as a reward or withheld as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior.



Fundraising

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus during the school day. SCPA will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas (examples available from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and from the USDA). SCPA will encourage non-food fundraisers and those promoting physical activity (such as the yearly marathon). Fundraising after the school day does not need to comply with the smart snack guidelines.

Nutrition Promotion

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs. Students and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout schools, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Nutrition promotion also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to students and is most effective when implemented consistently through a comprehensive and multi-channel approach by school staff, teachers, parents, students and the community.

SCPA will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through at least:

- Ensuring 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- Implementing at least ten or more evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using Smarter Lunchroom techniques.

Nutrition Education

SCPA will teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating by all students. Divisions will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health.



- Is part of not only health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences and elective subjects.
- Includes enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits and school gardens.
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products and healthy food preparation methods.
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise).
- Links with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, other school foods and nutrition-related community services.
- Teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing.
- Includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff.

Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education

SCPA will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 of the following essential topics on healthy eating:

- Relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention
- Nutrition Education
- Reading and using FDA's nutrition fact labels
- Eating a variety of foods every day
- Balancing food intake with physical activity
- Eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grain products
- Choosing foods that are low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol and do not contain trans-fat
- Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars
- Eating more calcium-rich foods
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Risks of unhealthy eating habits
- Accepting body size differences
- Understanding the effects of caffeinated beverages
- Eating Disorders
- Food safety
- Importance of water consumption
- Importance of eating breakfast
- Making healthy choices when eating at restaurants



- The Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Reducing sodium intake
- Social influences on healthy eating, including media, family, peers and culture.
- How to find valid information or services related to nutrition and dietary behavior.
- How to develop a plan and track progress toward achieving a personal goal to eat healthier.
- Resisting peer pressure related to unhealthy dietary behavior.
- Influencing, supporting or advocating for others' healthy dietary behavior
- Chemical health awareness and education

Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools

SCPA is committed to providing a school environment that ensures opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. SCPA strives to teach students how to make informed choices about nutrition, health and physical activity.

These efforts will be weakened if students are subjected to advertising on SCPA property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information SCPA is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of SCPA to protect and promote student's health by permitting advertising and marketing for only those foods and beverages that are permitted to be sold on the school campus, consistent with SCPA's wellness policy.

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, such that only those foods that comply with or exceed those nutrition standards are permitted to be marketed or promoted to students.

Food and beverage marketing is defined as advertising and other promotions in schools. Food and beverage marketing often includes an oral, written, or graphic statement made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product made by the producer, manufacturer, seller or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product. This term includes, but is not limited to the following:



- Brand names, trademarks, logos or tags, except when placed on a physically present food or beverage product or its container.
- Displays, such as on vending machine exteriors.
- Corporate brand, logo, name or trademark on school equipment, such as marquees, message boards, scoreboards or backboards (Note: immediate replacement of these items are not required, however, districts will replace or update scoreboards or other durable equipment when existing contracts are up for renewal or to the extent that it is financially possible over time so that items are in compliance with the marketing policy).
- Corporate brand, logo, name or trademark on cups used for beverage dispensing, menu boards, coolers, trash cans and other food service equipment, as well as on posters, book covers, pupil assignment books or school supplies displayed, distributed, offered or sold by SCPA.
- Advertisements in school publications or school mailings
- Free product samples, taste tests, or coupons of a product, or free samples displaying advertising of a product.

As SCPA/School Nutrition/Athletics Department/Parent Group reviews existing contracts and considers new contracts, equipment and product purchasing (and replacement) decisions should reflect the applicable marketing guidelines established by the SCPA's wellness policy.

IV. Physical Activity

Children and adolescents should participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive school physical activity program (CSPAP). A CSPAP reflects strong coordination and synergy across all the components: quality physical education as the foundation, physical activity before, during and after school, staff involvement and family and community engagement and SCPA is committed to providing these opportunities. School divisions will ensure that these varied physical activity opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education (addressed in "Physical Education" subsection). All divisions at SCPA will be encouraged to participate in Let's Move! Active Schools (www.letsmoveschools.org) to successfully address all CSPAP areas.

Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, classroom physical activity breaks or physical education) will not be withheld



as punishment for any reason. This does not include participation on sports teams that have specific academic requirements. SCPA will provide teachers and other school staff with a list of ideas for alternative ways to discipline and/or hold students accountable.

To the extent practicable, SCPA will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe, and that equipment is available to students to be physically active. SCPA will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

Physical Education

SCPA will provide students with physical education, using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education. The physical education curriculum will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and will help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts (discussed in the “Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education” subsection). The curriculum will support the essential components of physical education.

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

All SCPA Lower School students in each grade will receive physical education for at least 50 minutes every 3 days throughout the school year. All SCPA Middle School students in each grade will receive at least 45 minutes every other day. All SCPA Upper School students are required to take the equivalent of one academic year of physical education.

The SCPA physical education program will promote physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity assessments while using an appropriate assessment tool related to criterion-based reporting for each student. The wellness committee, in conjunction with the physical education department, will utilize any available grant opportunities to encourage outdoor activities.

Students will be moderately to vigorously active for at least 50% of class time during most or all physical education class sessions. All physical education



teachers will be required to participate in at least a once-a-year professional development in physical education. All physical education classes are taught by licensed teachers who are certified or endorsed to teach physical education.

Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education

Health Education will be required in all grades (lower school - Core Knowledge Sequence standards). All middle and high school students will be required to take and pass at least one health education course. Middle school students will receive health education for all grades 5th - 8th. SCPA will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 of the following essential topics on physical activity:

- The physical, mental, emotional, psychological, or social benefits of physical activity
- How physical activity can contribute to a healthy lifestyle
- How physical activity can contribute to the academic learning process
- How an inactive lifestyle can contribute to chronic diseases or injuries
- Health-related fitness, that is, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility and body composition
- Differences between physical activity/education, exercise and fitness
- Phases of an exercise session (warm up, workout and cool down/stretch)
- Overcoming barriers related to physical activity
- Decreasing sedentary activities (For example: screen time)
- Opportunities for physical activity in the community
- Preventing injury during physical activity
- Weather-related safety (For example, avoiding heat stroke, hypothermia and sunburn while being physically active indoors/outdoors)
- How much physical activity is enough, that is, determining frequency, intensity, time and type of physical activity (FITT Principle)
- Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan
- Monitoring progress toward reaching goals in an individualized plan
- Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs
- Social influences on physical activity, including media, family, peers and culture



- How to find valid information or services related to physical activity and fitness
- How to influence, support, or advocate for others to engage in physical activity
- How to resist peer pressure that discourages physical activity
- Balancing stress and understanding stress reducing techniques
- Understanding all dimensions of wellness in terms of physical, mental, social, emotional and environmental health
- Importance of goal setting and action plans (SMART Goals)
- Importance of sleep and how it relates to physical activity and health

Recess (Elementary)

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

Outdoor recess will be offered when weather is feasible for outdoor play. Students will be allowed outside for recess except when outdoor temperature is below -10 windchill, during rain and/or storms with lightning or thunder, or at the discretion of the building administrator based on his/her best judgment of safety conditions.

If the school must conduct indoor recess, teachers and staff will follow the indoor recess guidelines that promote physical activity for students, to the extent practicable.

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



Classroom Physical Activity Breaks

SCPA recognizes that students are more attentive and ready to learn if provided with periodic breaks when they can be physically active or stretch. Thus, students will be offered periodic opportunities to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. SCPA recommends teachers provide short (3-5 minute) physical activity breaks to students during and between classes at least three days per week. These physical activity breaks will complement, not substitute, for physical education class, recess, and class transition periods. SCPA will provide resources and links to resources, tools, and technology with ideas for classroom physical activity breaks. Resources and ideas are available through USDA and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Active Academics

Teachers will incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into “core” subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, math, language arts, social studies and others) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day. Teachers will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

Before and After School Activities

SCPA offers opportunities for students to participate in physical activity either before and/or after school day (or both) through team sports and activities. At least 15 minutes of daily physical activity is offered during before or after school care.

V. Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness

SCPA will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, other food and beverage venues and physical activity facilities. SCPA will coordinate and integrate other initiatives related to physical activity, physical education, nutrition and other wellness components so all efforts are complimentary, not duplicative, and work towards the same set of goals and objectives promoting student well-being, optimal development and strong educational outcomes. Other opportunities that promote physical activity and wellness include, the student garden club and utilization of the discovery trail: nature walk, bird watching, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, our school marathon, etc. School-sponsored events held during the school day will adhere to the wellness policy guidelines.



Community Partnerships

SCPA will promote to parents/caregivers, families and the general community the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Families will be informed and invited to participate in school-sponsored activities and will receive information about health promotion efforts.

As described in the “Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications” subsection, SCPA will use electronic mechanisms as well as non-electronic mechanisms to ensure that all families are actively notified of opportunities to participate in school-sponsored activities and receive information about health promotion efforts.

SCPA will partner with Power Up!, a local health initiative that promotes healthy eating and physical activity. SCPA will participate with Power Up! school challenges every other school year and promote local Power Up! events.

VI. Mental Health

Student Mental Health

SCPA has two student support specialists on site to support students with specific needs related to social, emotional and academic challenges. SCPA also partners with the Youth Service Bureau (YSB) to support our students and staff as needed. <https://www.stcroixprep.org/health-service/mental-health/>

Staff Wellness and Health Promotion

The WC will have an employee wellness subcommittee that focuses on staff wellness issues, identifies and disseminates wellness resources and performs other functions that support staff wellness in coordination with human resources staff. The subcommittee leader’s name is Carrie Hamm.

SCPA will implement strategies to support staff in actively promoting and modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors. Examples of strategies SCPA will use include monthly activities around our motto of ‘Eat! Play! Live!’ activities will include healthy eating, physical activity and other wellness activities. SCPA promotes staff member participation in health promotion programs and will support programs for staff members on healthy eating/weight management that are accessible and free or low-cost.



Schools are worksites as well as places of learning. Ensuring that school employees' physical, social-emotional and mental health needs are met is pivotal to their well-being and to students before academic success. Schools should create work environments that support healthy eating, physical activity and healthy behaviors that address the social-emotional well-being of staff through explicit focus on stress management, maintaining positive relationships, teacher self-efficacy and support for purpose-driven work. Employee wellness programs and healthy work environments can decrease employee health insurance premiums and reduce employee absenteeism and turnover. The district is committed to supporting the physical and mental health and well-being of all district employees.

The district will support employee health and well-being by:

- engaging educators as stakeholders in all school improvement and planning processes
- designating employee wellness (both physical and mental) as a priority in the district organizational structure
- disseminating physical and mental health information resources to school and school-based OST staff (e.g., pamphlets, flyers and posters)
- conducting free or low-cost physical and mental health risk screenings at least once per year
- conducting employee wellness/health (physical and mental) promotion activities at least once per year
- providing access (for free or at low-cost) to and encouraging participation in and use of physical and mental health programs/resources for:
 - ❖ healthy eating and weight management
 - ❖ physical activity
 - ❖ stress management
 - ❖ tobacco avoidance and cessation
 - ❖ social-emotional health
- considering the disabilities of staff and ensuring access by all staff to health and wellness programs and resources that are offered
- promoting a positive workplace climate with a focus on diversity and inclusion practices



- designating a consistent and systemic approach for employee conflict resolution
- addressing space and break time for lactation/breastfeeding
- including employees in regularly assessing and reporting on the district- and building- level implementation of these practices and providing appropriate resources and training for continuous improvement

Professional Learning

When feasible, SCPA will offer professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school. Professional learning will help SCPA staff understand the connections between academics and health and the ways in which health and wellness are integrated into ongoing SCPA reform or academic improvement plans/efforts.



Updated 5/20/25

Glossary

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

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

School Day – the time between midnight the night before to 4:45 PM

Triennial – recurring every three years.

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