

Saint Mary's School Playground Rules, Game Rules

The St Mary's School Recess staff felt it would be helpful for students, teachers, and parents to know the rules that are enforced on the playground as well as rules for the various games that are played here at school.

Inside or Outside Recess?

Recess staff and office staff constantly monitor conditions throughout the recess block. Recess is always outside unless:

1. It is raining or extremely wet.
2. The temperature is 0 degrees or 0 degrees with wind chill.
3. The recess staff determines that conditions are unsafe due to other acts of nature (i.e. storms, ice) or construction.

Inside Recess

Inside recess is done in the classroom under the supervision of the classroom teachers. Students watch movies, play games, and/or do classroom work.

Leaving For the Playground

When your class is called, line up quietly at the assigned door. You will be walked out to the playground using the glass doors by the gym, these are the only doors we use exiting or entering the playground. This should be done quietly as other classrooms may still be in session.

Playground Rules

Students are taught our playground rules during the first week of school. Yes, there are LOTS of rules, however these are necessary in order to ensure that our students are safe and have an enjoyable recess!

- The only games allowed are NON-TACKLE! Football games are touch only.
- Recess staff will take away any games if they believe students cannot play it safely.
- Basketball games are 5-8 players to a team (16 total players). Students may have to play 1/2 court if the courts are busy.
- Playing tag should take place out on the grass and not within the playground equipment area.
- If a ball goes across the street or into the street, get a Recess staff. Students should not leave playground area for any reason.

- Swing area: Please don't jump off the swings. Students should only be in the swing area if they are swinging. No running between or under the swings. No twisting or sideways motion on the swings.
 - No running or climbing up the slides. Come down the slide feet first on your pockets. Come down one at a time. No climbing on top of the slide. No jumping from the top of the slide.
 - For equipment with seats, there is only to be the amount of riders as there are seats. No standing.
 - Kick ALL balls on the grass only. Do not kick balls on or near playground equipment.
 - No eating outside. All food and drink should be finished in the lunchroom before coming outside. No gum chewing.
 - Students should not bring anything back into school that they find outside on the playground such as animals or bugs, sticks, wood chips, snow or ice, etc. If you find something on the playground that should not be there, don't touch it. Instead go tell a Recess staff and they will take care of it.
 - No school or personal items should be brought outside. Keep them in your desk or locker. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.
 - No writing on playground equipment. If you find something written on equipment tell a Recess Staff.
 - Never pull other students off playground equipment.
 - Stay on the playground! No playing outside of playground boundaries as explained by staff.
 - Tell a Recess staff right away if you see a stranger on the playground without a guest badge.
 - Tell a Recess staff right away of any problem that happens at recess. That's why they are there. Don't wait until the end of recess to tell them. They will need time to resolve problems.
 - Ask a Recess staff member if you need to use the bathroom or for any other reason you feel you need to leave the playground. Do not leave without permission please.
 - Respect others. No bullying, punching, tackling, or using bad language at ANY time.
 - Be Safe! If you are unsure about a situation or a playground rule ask the Recess staff, they will be glad to help you.
 - Please help keep our school beautiful please do not stand on landscaping bricks, run through landscaping rock or plants, thank you.

- Special Rules for When We Have Snow

We live in Minnesota and going out for recess when it's snowing is part of our everyday lives! In order to make sure students are safe, please follow our winter rules.

- No playing/sliding on the ice.
- No climbing the snow mounds.
- No throwing, kicking snowballs or ice EVER! Building snowmen and snow sculptures is permitted and encouraged!
- There might be rock salt put down to make our sidewalk and playground safe. Please do not pick it up!
- Do not try to break ice out of the down spout gutters in front of school.
- Stay dry! Stay out of standing water or large puddles.
- All the other recess rules still apply!

Special Rules for Capture the flag

Capture the flag at recess is a great activity, but players need to make sure they are following our school rules. We do not have referees, coaches, helmets, pads, or other equipment to keep students safe. The Recess staff will take any games away if they believe students are unable to play it safely. The following rules were taught to students the first week of school:

- Object of the game is to capture opposing team's flag.
- The teams should be equal.
- There is a 3-2-1 start signal given.
- There is one predetermined "safe" spot on each side.
- There is no dead ball, where the ball drops it continues in play.
- Attempt to pull flag belt off of opposing player when they are on your side of the field.
- You may not hold onto your belt so as it cannot be removed. You also may not wrap your belt so that it is harder to remove.
- No shoving in attempt to avoid belt capturing.
- There is no "goalie", puppy guarding" you must remain at least 5 feet away from flag on your side.
- The flag belt remains on the ground where it was taken until regained by team.
- Player must go to jail which is a predetermined designated location on opposing side.
- To get out of jail a team mate retrieves your belt and returns it to you while you are in jail and then you resume play.
- Jail is not a safe zone.

WE MUST MAKE SURE WE ROTATE SO THAT ALL GRADES HAVE AN EQUAL AND FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY.

If rules are not followed or arguments arise, call on the Recess staff. They are there to solve problems and keep the game safe. The Recess staff may choose to end the game

and can ban any game for a determined length of time if students are being unsafe.

Returning to the Building

When the Recess staff indicates recess is over; you will head directly to your assigned area after putting any equipment you used away. You will then be lead back into school where you will be met by your teachers.

Discipline/Consequences on the Playground

Recess staff will follow the Saint Mary's School Student Expectation policy. They can issue verbal warnings, timeouts, and referrals and/or remove students from the playground when appropriate. Major student behavior issues such as fighting or bullying will be referred to the principal and/or social worker.

Playground boundaries

Inside of all fencing. Not past any sidewalks. Not past the building wall on the east side of school, the school wall is the boundary marker on that side.