

Saint Margaret Catholic Academy

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Concussion Management Policy

The Concussion Management and Awareness Act, Chapter 496 of the Laws of 2011, (revised to include nonpublic schools effective July 1, 2023) requires the Commissioner of Education, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Health, to promulgate rules and regulations related to students who sustain a concussion, also known as a mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI), at school and at any school-sponsored event or related activity.

Concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and is sometimes referred to as a mild TBI. Concussions are injuries to the brain that occur as the result of a fall, motor vehicle accident, or any other activity that results in an impact to the head or body. Recovery from a concussion will vary. Avoiding re-injury and over-exertion until fully recovered are the cornerstones of proper concussion management.

St. Margaret Catholic Academy recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children who participate in sports and recreational activities and can have serious consequences if not managed carefully. Therefore, we are adopting the following policy to support the proper evaluation and management of head injuries.

While our staff will exercise reasonable care to protect students, head injuries may still occur. Physical education teachers, school nurses, and other appropriate staff will receive training to recognize the signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion. Any student who is suspected to have sustained a concussion or who is exhibiting those signs, symptoms, or behaviors while participating in a school-sponsored class, extracurricular activity, shall be removed from the game or activity and evaluated (not diagnosed) as soon as possible by an appropriate healthcare professional. A designated school employee will call 911 if necessary and notify the student's parents or guardians, who must take the student to be evaluated as soon as possible by an appropriate health care professional.

If a student sustains a concussion at a time other than when engaged in a school-sponsored activity, the school expects the parent/legal guardian to report the condition to the principal and the school nurse so that the school can support the appropriate management of the condition.

The student shall not return to school or activity until authorized to do so by an appropriate health care professional. Once authorized by an appropriate healthcare professional, the student will follow a gradual process for return to all academic activities and physical activities. **Please note:** the return to academic activities may not coincide with the student's return to physical activities.

The Principal, School Nurse and Teacher will collaborate to follow the student's healthcare professional's guidance on return to academic and physical activities. Any student who continues to have signs or symptoms upon return to activity must be removed from play and reevaluated by their health care provider.

For more details regarding New York State's concussion protocol, click [here](#)