East Central Catholic Schools	**Safe Work Guideline** **Mowers** (Walk Behind And Riding Types)		
Prepared By: Don Doherty	**Effective Date:** May 2010	**Revised By:** Don Doherty	**Date:** March 2020

DO:

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (steel toed boots, hearing protection, safety glasses, sunscreen, and bug spray).
- Wear appropriate clothing (long pants, no loose fitting clothing or dangling jewelry).
- Walk around the area and pick-up any rocks, sticks and other objects that the blade might pick-up and throw.
- Be aware of the direction of discharge, particularly near play structures or parking lots where the risk of injury or damage is greater.
- Before use, check the operation of the blade, blade brake, stopping feature of the mower, clutch and engine kill switch. If not working properly, do not use mower.
- Ensure that guards, shields, deflectors and warning decals are in place on the mower.
- Wipe up any spilled fuel before starting the engine.
- Always start the mower on a level surface.
- Always stop mowing if a person or foreign object appears in your path.
- Be mindful of wet grass, which can clump in the discharge area. When this occurs, turn off the engine, disconnect the spark plug and ensure the blade is stopped before making any adjustments or connections. Use a stick, not hands to clear plugged discharge area.
- Keep hands and body parts away from hot engine and blade area.
- Always push a walk-behind-mower forward. If you pull the mower backwards you run the risk of running over your foot.
- Ensure you are trained in the use of this equipment or are working under the direct supervision of someone who is.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for use and maintenance.

DON'T

- Do not use a mower if any of the safety features are missing or damaged.
- Never remove or disable a safety feature.
- Never cross a driveway or path with blade rotating. The blades can pick-up and throw loose gravel and rocks.
- Never operate a mower when persons or pets are in the danger zone (approx. 15 meters).
- Never put your hand or any part of the body in or anywhere close to the blade path when the engine is running. This also applies if the mower is equipped with a blade clutch. **Always assume the blade is turning when the engine is running.**
- Never fill the fuel tank indoors or while engine is hot or running.
- Never carry passengers on any riding mover.