

Frequently Asked Questions

This document has been designed by current school parents to answer many of the questions that new parents may have throughout the school year. Activities are listed in calendar order whenever possible.

Packet Pick-up

- ◆ In this packet, you will find information about the upcoming school year, forms that will need to be filled out and returned to school, events that will be occurring during the school year, etc.
- ◆ Packets will include information needed to make payments with either a single check or online.
- ◆ Packets may be picked up before or after the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass or before or after the Sunday Masses at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- ◆ Packets may also be picked up the following week between 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. at the school office.

Ice Cream Social

- ◆ Free event sponsored by Home and School Association
- ◆ Come and socialize with old friends and make new friends!
- ◆ Kids can play outside.
- ◆ Meet and greet with the teachers

Orientation Day/Picture Day

- ◆ You and your child(ren) in grades K4-8 will be visiting your child(ren)'s classroom, dropping off school supplies, taking their school picture for the year, and meeting their teacher. You are also encouraged to drop off your completed forms at the school office.
- ◆ You can arrive anytime between 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please allow 25 minutes for your visit.
- ◆ K3 will have orientation on the first day of school between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. K3 pictures will be scheduled for a later date.

Back to School Night

- ◆ There will be an all parent meeting in Church to start off the night.
- ◆ During this session, you will meet the different members of the committees.
- ◆ You will be able to visit your child's individual classroom and meet their teacher. Expectations and information for the year are shared.
- ◆ Middle school parents will meet for a group session with middle school staff.
- ◆ This is a night for parents only.

Soles for Catholic Education Walk

- ◆ Online sign-up (info will come out in the weekly newsletter & via your child's folder).
- ◆ Registration is done online.
- ◆ You do not have to participate in the walk to raise funds.
- ◆ 100% of the donations raised remain at St. Joseph Catholic School.

Oktoberfest

- ◆ Many volunteers are needed for this two-day event.
- ◆ This is an outdoor event held on the grounds
- ◆ Games and bounce houses are available for children. Home and School sponsors a family area.
- ◆ Food and beverages are served.
- ◆ Several bands play throughout the event.

Timber-lee

- ◆ This one day retreat event is for 7th graders.
- ◆ Their teacher will provide more information once the school year begins.
- ◆ There is a fee associated with this event.

Early Release

- ◆ Pick up at noon. Please refer to school calendar for dates.
- ◆ Extended care is open until 6 p.m.
- ◆ Students attending extended care need to bring a bag lunch.

Eighth Grade Retreat

- ◆ This one day retreat event is for 8th graders and focuses on team building and developing leadership skills.
- ◆ The teacher will provide more information once the school year begins.
- ◆ There is a fee associated with this event.

Conferences

- ◆ Notice is sent home with your child in November.
- ◆ Blocks of time are given, and you will be allowed to choose a convenient time.
- ◆ 10-minute conferences per student in grades K4-5
- ◆ Students are expected to attend the conference.
- ◆ Middle school holds group conferences with all middle school teachers. Each conference is 15 minutes.
- ◆ There are also optional conferences held in February at either parent or teacher request.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

- ◆ Students are assigned an item or items to contribute for a classroom box.
- ◆ A box may also be taken to fill/complete as a family.

Cookie House

- ◆ 6 dozen cookies per family need to be donated.
- ◆ If you would prefer not to bake, a “Buy Out” option is available.
- ◆ Volunteers are needed to help at community bake nights and on the day of the event.
- ◆ Donations are collected for various themed baskets to be raffled off. Additional information will be included in the school newsletter.
- ◆ Students earn “out of uniform” passes for cookies donated and parent volunteer hours.
- ◆ Out of uniform passes do not expire and can be used on Fridays during the school year.

Craft Day

- ◆ Students in grades K5-8th grade prepare a Christmas-themed craft in the school hall.
- ◆ K4 will prepare a craft earlier in the day.
- ◆ Volunteers are needed in the afternoon to help the grades with their craft. Parent volunteers are also needed to prepare crafts prior to the event.

Christmas Program

- ◆ K4-8th grade participates.
- ◆ You will want to arrive early to get good seats in church. Seating will be open 45 minutes prior to the performance. The balcony will be open.
- ◆ Program starts at approximately 6:30 p.m. and will last approximately 1.5 hours.
- ◆ Children will be sitting with their class the entire program.
- ◆ 5th grade participates in a play.
- ◆ Information regarding what type of clothes to wear will be provided.
- ◆ Children report to classrooms before the program starts – specific time will be given.
- ◆ Parents will need to pick up their children from their classrooms after the program.
- ◆ At the end of the program, the whole school will sing a final song together.

Catholic Schools Week

- ◆ Various events are held during the week to promote Catholic Education.
- ◆ The week begins with 10:30 a.m. Mass. School students and families are actively involved in the Mass.
- ◆ Each school day has a theme and related activity.
- ◆ This week will also be Teacher Appreciation week.
- ◆ Open Houses take place. One is scheduled after the 10:30 Mass and the other takes place on an evening during the week.
- ◆ School tours are given to potential new families.
- ◆ The Ice Cream Social and Book Fair are held during Open House (small fee charged for the ice cream).
- ◆ “Super Silent” Auction Items are introduced and available for bidding during the week.
- ◆ Examples of events occurring this week include:
 - ⇒ Soup & Chili Cook-off
 - ⇒ Book sale
 - ⇒ Forensics Tournament

Forensics

- ◆ School program designed to promote and encourage public speaking for students in grades 3-8.
- ◆ Annual school tournament is held Sunday afternoon of Catholic Schools Week.
- ◆ Students are assigned a coach to help them prepare.
- ◆ Volunteers are needed to coach and assist with the tournament.
- ◆ Younger students perform Poetry or Prose. Grades 4-5 may also perform Group Interpretation.
- ◆ Middle School students may choose from several performance categories. Middle school students are encouraged to join the Middle School travelling team which attends several area tournaments.

Kindergarten Circus

- ◆ K4 and K5 students put on a special circus performance for family members and friends. The circus is held alternating years .
- ◆ Kindergarten teachers are responsible for this event; they will provide detailed info including acts/performers.
- ◆ Most costumes are supplied.
- ◆ There is a dress rehearsal for the school students the morning previous.
- ◆ You may reserve seats on the day of after dropping off your child.
- ◆ DVD available for purchase following event.
- ◆ K4 and K5 students are dismissed for the day following the circus performance.

Auction

- ◆ Dinner Auction– major parish fundraiser
- ◆ Parish & School Adult Event
- ◆ Both live and silent auctions
- ◆ Middle and high school student volunteers needed
- ◆ Pre & Post Auction parties
- ◆ Contact Auction Chair about donations & volunteering opportunities
- ◆ Gifts of Love: each grade makes and donates a class item which can be bid on at the auction.

Fractions in Action

- ◆ 1st – 3rd grade event. Day designed to provide students with opportunities/activities showing how fractions are a part of everyday life.
- ◆ Volunteers needed.
- ◆ T-shirts can be purchased and are considered spiritwear.
- ◆ 2nd grade teacher will provide parents with information regarding items to contribute.
- ◆ Lunch will be provided for these grades this day.

Middle School Play

- ◆ Tickets can be purchased through school prior to show or at the door the night of performances.
- ◆ Many parent volunteers are needed both before and during the event.
- ◆ Show times are Thursday at 6:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Try-outs are in January for 6th grade – 8th grade.
- ◆ During the performance, younger students can sit close to the stage on the floor.
- ◆ Concession stand will be open at intermission.
- ◆ Optional purchase of t-shirts which are considered spiritwear
- ◆ DVD can be purchased following event.
- ◆ Middle School students will have a mandatory afternoon rehearsal the Sunday prior to the show.

8th Grade Carnival

- ◆ Carnival is run by the 8th graders to raise money for an agreed upon charity.
- ◆ Students play games & win prizes.
- ◆ Concession stand is available.
- ◆ Punch cards may be ordered prior to the event or purchased on the day of. Punch cards are used to play games and buy snacks.
- ◆ Children can purchase punch cards - \$1.00 = 5 punches on a card.
- ◆ Children attend this event during school and families are welcome after school.
- ◆ Raffle prizes are available. Do not need to be present to win.

Grandparents / VIP Day

- ◆ An all school event (K4-8) which Grandparents and/or VIPs are invited to attend.
- ◆ A musical program is performed.
- ◆ Grandparents/VIPs visit classrooms where special activities take place. Light refreshments are served.
- ◆ Students lead attendees in praying the Living Rosary. Students who are involved will be asked to wear specific colored shirts. (Teachers will notify parents of this.)
- ◆ Parents are not required to attend.
- ◆ It is an early release day at noon. Extended Care is **not** available.

Folk Fair

- ◆ 7th grade event where students present information regarding a country they have studied.
- ◆ Students attend this multi-cultural event in the school hall.
- ◆ Students will be able to sample food while attending.

May Crowning

- ◆ 2nd grade event.
- ◆ 2nd graders will need to wear their Holy Communion attire.
- ◆ Families are encouraged to attend.
- ◆ 2nd grade teacher will send more info home.
- ◆ The children that attend St. Joseph School will participate during the school day.

Memorial Day Parade

- ◆ Donations of candy/cash collected with a casual day awarded to those who donate.
- ◆ Families march in the Elm Grove parade. The goal of marching is to increase community awareness of St. Joseph Catholic School.
- ◆ A trailer is used to transport younger children.
- ◆ Parent volunteers walk the route, drive the trailer, distribute candy, and supervise student participants.
- ◆ Families are encouraged to walk together.

Extracurricular Activities

Chess Club

- ◆ Grades 5K – 8th
- ◆ Sessions held on Thursdays after school from 3:10-4:15 p.m.
- ◆ Program run by Chess Scholars. Registration information will be sent home and will be included in the newsletter.
- ◆ There is a fee to participate.

Glee Club

- ◆ Grades 7 and 8
- ◆ Meets two Friday afternoons from 3:10-4:00 p.m. each month. Practice schedule will be distributed.
- ◆ Advisor is JJ Anshus

Service Club

- ◆ Grades 5th – 8th
- ◆ Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month from 3:10-4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Goal is to encourage students to reach out to the school, parish and community at large.
- ◆ Advisors are Margaret Solberg, Cindy Kirchner, and Karen Lengell

Spanish Club

- ◆ Grades 3rd – 5th
- ◆ Meetings are typically held the third Tuesday of the month from 3:10 p.m.-4:15 p.m.
- ◆ Students participate in activities designed to increase knowledge and understanding about Spanish-speaking countries
- ◆ The advisor is Cecilia Rodriguez

Extracurricular Activities

Middle School Forensics

- ◆ Preparation begins in mid– December.
- ◆ Tournament season begins in late January. Middle school season runs from February-late March.
- ◆ Students in grades 6-8 may participate.
- ◆ Students have the option to attend 1-5 tournaments.
- ◆ Those who qualify may attend the state tournament in late March.

Cub Scouts

- ◆ Sign-up starts in September. Information flyers will be sent home via home folders.
- ◆ Dens need parent volunteers and are required to meet 1-2 times a month.
- ◆ Pack will meet once a month (September – May)
- ◆ 1st graders will need a parent to attend all meetings with their child.
- ◆ Cub Scout Master is Paul Morgan.

Girls Scouts

- ◆ TBD

Sports sponsored by St. Joseph Athletic Association

- ◆ Volleyball
- ◆ Basketball
- ◆ Track
- ◆ Girl's Softball

Makers Club

- ◆ Held Wednesdays 3:10 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ Information and sign up will be sent home via newsletter.
- ◆ STEM Related activities for students Grades 3-8
- ◆ Advisors are Robin Meier and Anthony Aquila.