



# Saint Andrew

Anchored in Faith  Catholic Church and School

## Frequently Asked Questions

Updated August 2021

**Q: How many students do you have?**

A: We have approximately 175 students in our school, with one class per grade and about 20 to 25 students per class.

**Q: What are your school hours?**

A: Students can be dropped off between 8:00 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. School begins at 8:20 and ends at 2:45 p.m. Students in the PreSchool or PreKindergarten half day program are dismissed at 11:30 a.m.

**Q: Do you have to be a member of the parish to attend the school? Do you have to be Catholic?**

A: No, you don't have to be from our parish, or even Catholic, to attend our school. Active parish members from Saint Andrew are given first priority when filling our final school rosters, however. The education we provide is centered on our Catholic faith, including daily prayer and weekly Catholic masses. All students participate in all activities including learning the Hail Mary and praying the rosary. Students and families of other faith traditions do enrich our school community, but we are a Catholic school!

**Q: Do students attend Mass?**

A: Yes, students in K-5 attend Mass each week, and PreKindergarten students come to Mass monthly starting in January. Mass is open to all, so families can join us as well. Our classes take turns providing the choir, the readers, and the gift bearers for Mass. We love joining with the church to celebrate the Holy Eucharist! We also attend Mass on some Holy Days and Feast Days.

**Q: What is the cost of tuition?**

A: The 2019-2020 cost of tuition for registered, active members of the Church of Saint Andrew or churches in our Area Catholic Community is \$3,350. For non-parishioners, the cost is \$6,320. We also charge minimal technology and activity fees each year to avoid asking families to pay for individual activities throughout the year. Of course, those choosing to have hot lunch need to pay for that as well.

**Q: Is financial assistance available?**

A: Yes, tuition assistance is available for registered members through their parish\*. We use the Financial Aid Independent Service (FAIR) to handle those in need of financial assistance. This is a third party, confidential process that reviews your Federal Income Tax returns with all schedules and W2's. Applications will be available Feb 1st for the 2021/2022 school year (2020 tax year). All applications are due April 15, 2021. The FAIR service gives us a starting point to consider your situation for assistance. FAIR calculates each student's need for assistance. We want to make it possible for every family to send their child here to receive a Catholic Education if we can. For more information please call Melissa Anderson 763-441-1483

\*The parishes of Christ our Light, (Zimmerman and Princeton) and Mary of the Visitation, (Big Lake and Becker) are considered eligible for the basic tuition parishioner rate. Tuition assistance, if needed, is handled through each parish separately.

**Q: Are families expected to fundraise?**

A: Yes, we ask all families to participate in annual fundraisers. Every dollar raised helps meet the overall cost of providing education to students.

**Q: Is bussing available?**

A: Yes, in many cases. Students in Kindergarten and up may receive busing services from District 728 (Elk River Schools). You live in District 728 within the boundaries that bus to our school -- basically North of the river

Bussing is not available for Preschool or PreKindergarten students. Your family can contact Tri-CAP to arrange transportation through them at your expense. For more information go to [www.tricap.org](http://www.tricap.org)

Families outside of the District 728 boundaries may be eligible for transportation reimbursement. Please contact Sherri Stefano in our school office to learn more. [SStefano@saint-andrew.net](mailto:SStefano@saint-andrew.net)

**Q: Is before and after school childcare available?**

A: Yes, our Tackle Box program provides before-school and after-school child care for students ages 5 and older. The cost for this program is an addition to tuition, but we work hard to keep it affordable. Families schedule the days their child will attend each month. Breakfast is provided before school, and a snack is given after school. Please contact the director, Laure Hipsag, for more information. [Lhipsag@saint-andrew.net](mailto:Lhipsag@saint-andrew.net)

**Q: Can my student attend Saint Andrew with an IEP or 504 Plan?**

A: Almost always, yes. Saint Andrew Catholic School maintains a close working relationship with District 728. Students who have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) receive their services at nearby Parker Elementary, traveling there and back by mini bus. Students in need of accommodations found in 504 Plans can get that at our school. Rarely there are students who need services that are beyond our ability to provide. We ask that families let us know before enrolling that the student has a 504 or IEP so any concerns can be addressed beforehand.

**Q: Is the school peanut free? Is the school tree nut free?**

A: We strive to be an allergy aware school. We do not allow peanut or tree nut products to be used in our kitchen, nor are families allowed to bring peanut or tree nut products to the school. We also follow the dietary restrictions for students who have other diagnosed allergies.

**Q: Are there any extra-curricular activities?**

A: Yes. We offer a variety of activities beyond the school day. Some have an additional fee for families to pay. At this time we offer the following activities. In addition, many students belong to community based sports teams.

- Children's Choir – Our church liturgist, Diane, leads children from our school as well as others who are members of the church but do not attend Saint Andrew. They meet Wednesdays from 4:00-4:45 p.m. The choir sings at masses every few months. There is no fee for this program.
- Kidz Art – An outside instructor comes each Tuesday after school and teaches art class to those that register and pay the fee. Students make a variety of art projects across the year.
- Spanish – A teacher from Futura Language Professionals comes each Thursday to teach interested students in grades k-5 how to speak Spanish. The approach uses a theme, and so students can join for one or more sessions throughout the year. There is a fee for this program.