



## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

### **Q. Do students attend Mass?**

A. Yes, students attend an all-school Mass at least once a week. Our first- through fifth grade students also periodically attend Mass at Guardian Angels Care Center. We also celebrate our faith with communal prayer services, classroom prayer and observation of liturgical seasons, holy days and feasts.

### **Q. Do you have to be a member of the parish to attend the school?**

A. No, you do not have to be from our parish, or even Catholic, to attend our school. Active parish members are given first priority when filling our final school rosters, however, and the education we provide is centered on our Catholic faith, including daily prayer and weekly Catholic Masses. Students and families of other faith traditions do enrich our school community, but we are a Catholic school!

### **Q. What is the cost of tuition?**

A. The annual cost of tuition for registered and active parishioners of the Church of Saint Andrew is \$3,250. For non-parishioners, the cost is \$5,300. We also charge minimal technology and activity fees each year to avoid asking families to pay for individual activities or needs throughout the year. Financial aid is available to help make Catholic education more affordable for your family—please come in and talk with us to learn more!

### **Q. Is financial assistance available?**

A. Yes. Fr. Mark and our team will work with parishioners unable to afford the annual cost of tuition. Assistance is based on each family's annual income.

### **Q. Are families expected to fundraise?**

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

### **Q. Is busing available?**

A. Yes, we receive busing services from District 728 (Elk River schools). For more information on busing, [visit the District 728 Transportation web page](#). Families outside of District 728 may be eligible for busing or transportation reimbursement depending on location. Please contact the school office at 763-441-2216 for more information.



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

A. We have approximately 160 students in our school this year, with one section per grade and approximately 20 to 25 students per class.

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

A. For kindergarten through fifth grade, school starts at 8:20 a.m. and is finished at 2:45 p.m. Students can be dropped off for the start of the school day beginning at 7:45 a.m. We have before and after school programs open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 6 p.m.

Pre-school hours vary depending on the program you choose for your child. The morning session runs from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The afternoon session runs from noon to 2:30 p.m. (when available). All-day preschool runs from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Q. Can I see my students' grades online?**

A. Yes, we have a password-protected parent portal for parents to get information on grades, lunch balances, class schedules and more. Teachers also communicate to parents via email to update them on class progress.

**Q. Do you offer before- and after-school child care?**

A. Yes, our Tacklebox program provides before- and after-school child care. The cost for this program is in addition to tuition, but we work hard to keep it affordable. Please contact the school office at 763-441-2216 for more information.

**Q. Does the school support students with special needs?**

A. Saint Andrew Catholic School has high expectations for all our students and maintains a close working relationship with District 728. Any students who are diagnosed with specific learning disabilities can be serviced through the Special Education Department at Parker Elementary. We offer support for students who receive services for speech, language, math and emotional behavioral disorders.

**Q. Is the school peanut-free?**

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