

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 21, 2017
BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

Hi Parents,

Can you feel the excitement in the air? It's that time again ... **the start of school is only about one week away!** The kids to whom I've already spoken are ready to come back, and most of you parents are more than ready as well! The teachers have been readying their classrooms, and the school is clean and waxed! Now all we need are the beautiful kids to make our facility truly a place of beauty! How fortunate we are that God brings us together on such a blessed and important mission!

Please check this info over carefully **as we have a few changes for this school year.** I'm happy to clarify anything with you at Open House, and I can't wait to see you and the kids! I'll be waiting for you all at the front door on Wednesday!
Ms. Scipioni

OPEN HOUSE!
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23rd
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
ALL FAMILIES, PRESCHOOL THROUGH FIFTH
Picnic lunch in the cafeteria 5:00-7:00 FREE!
TEACHER PRESENTATIONS (in classrooms)
5:30; 6:00; 6:30; 7:00;
School organizations and information in the gym.
PLEASE COME! PLEASE COME! PLEASE COME!

- All families of St. Andrew School (preschool through grade 5) are invited to the school "open house" on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23rd 5:00-8:00**
- To make it easier on working families we'll be serving a **free picnic dinner in the school cafeteria**, which tentatively includes a hot dog, chips, fruit, dessert and beverage. We'll feed the family! Bring all of the kids!
- Children are encouraged to **bring school supplies or other requested materials** and leave them in their classroom for when school starts.

TEACHER PRESENTATIONS AT OPEN HOUSE NIGHT – PARENTS NEED TO ATTEND ONE SESSION WITH EACH OF THEIR CHILDREN'S TEACHERS:

- **Teachers will hold four sessions on the evening of August 23rd, and you are requested to attend one session with each of your child's teachers.**
- **Sessions will be held at 5:30, 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00 , and will vary in length and content from grade level to grade level. Most won't be more than 15**

minutes in length, and will give you ample time to leave supplies, speak to the teacher, etc. **WE ASK THAT YOU BE ON TIME FOR THE SESSION YOU'RE ATTENDING, AND DO NOT GO INTO THE CLASSROOM IF THE DOOR IS CLOSED AND THE SESSION HAS BEGUN.**

PARENT INFORMATION IN THE SCHOOL GYM:

The following information will be found in the school gym. Please take the time to stop in the gym to get the following information:

- **Parent information packets and representatives from various groups and organizations will be located in the gym. They are as follows:**
- **Mrs. Stefano – School secretary.** She will be available to answer school questions, issues about Sycamore, or to get **Parent Packets**.
- **Mrs. Rydberg – School Bookkeeper.** Pay your Lunch, Tackle Box, or Activity Fee tonight at school, or online at your convenience.
- **Melissa Anderson – Parish Business Manager.** Questions/Tuition payment
- **Anna Gaalswyk – School Health Clerk / School Nurse.** Meet our school nurse, bring health records, and make an appointment to talk about concerns
- **Lori Iannuzzelli – Safe Environment Representative.** Questions. Training.
- **Laurie Hipsag – Tackle Box Director.** Registration/Calendars/Payment
- **Anne Buck and Melanie Curtis – Parent Engagement** and volunteerism opportunities. Check this email for more info.
- **Golf Classic Representative –** Sign up for our golf tournament to benefit St. Andrew
- **Carrie Shade – Scouting opportunities** for boys at St. A's.
- **Geared Up Sports – Spirit Wear** sale at tonight's event.
- **"Gently used" uniform items are on sale in the gym. Each item will be sold for \$2.00! Stop by and shop!**
- Our uniform provider, Educational Outfitters, **will have sample uniform pieces/sizes at the school on OPEN HOUSE** for parents to better understand sizes when ordering online. **These uniform pieces will NOT be for sale, but will be available for you to look at for sizing.** Order uniform pieces at:
 - **Website: www.minnesotaeducationaloutfitters.com**
 - **Address: 6002 Excelsior Blvd. St. Louis Park, MN**
 - **Telephone Number: 952-927-6778 (owner: Barb / Julie)**You may have your orders shipped to the school instead of your home and avoid shipping charges.

NO SHOTS, NO SCHOOL! KINDERGARTEN AND PRESCHOOL – PLEASE READ!

- A child of **Kindergarten** age generally needs 5 DTP's (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus), 4 Polio, 2 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) 3 HepB (Hepatitis) and 2 Varicella (Chicken Pox).

Your physician or health care professional should help you determine an immunization schedule for your **Preschool/PreK** child

- Birth –Four Years of age requirements are 2 Hep A; 3 Hep B; 4 DTP; 3 Polio; 1MMR; 1 Hib; 4 Pneumococcal; 1 Varicella.

All parents of Preschool, PreK, and Kindergarten (all new parents and parents of students with medical concerns) should plan on visiting with the school health clerk, Mrs. Anna Gaalswyk, at OPEN HOUSE. She will be located in the school gym. ALL IMMUNIZATION RECORDS NEED TO BE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE ON/BY AUGUST 15TH TO ENABLE REVIEW BY THE SCHOOL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.

PROCEDURAL CHANGES FOR 2017-2018 DROP OFF/PICK UP (CHANGE)

We have been asked by the Elk River Police Department to consider a solution for the congestion on Irving Street in front of the school at the start of the school day. We have had a number of “near misses” with cars traveling too fast (not St. Andrew parents), but St. Andrew kids and parents stepping into traffic. Our concern, as always, is with the safety of our students. Therefore we will try the following:

PARENT TRANSPORTATION (Morning arrival)

1. Please do not park across the street from the school.
2. **If you like to escort your child into the building we ask that you park in one of the parking lots by the church. Please enter from Door C.**
3. If you would like to drop your child/ren off and not come into the building you may drop off on the school side of the street provided there are no school buses in the area. Please pull up ahead of the door and drop off quickly.
4. School buses are mandated to drop off in front of the building entrance. Any parent drop off should be out of the bus zone area. You may not park in the bus zone.
5. Preschool/Prekindergarten parents should check with Mrs. Rajkowski regarding an alternate drop off / pick up area more convenient to the classroom.

PARENT TRANSPORTATION (Dismissal end of day)

- We ask that K-5th grade parents park in any of the parish parking areas and use Door C to gain entrance to the building for pick up.
- Parents should come into the building, and wait in the long hallway between the cafeteria and gym area. The children will be dismissed at 2:40. **Children must be escorted from the building by a parent/written representative, and may not leave the building on their own to meet you in the car.**
- **We ask that parents DO NOT use the front door for dismissal, and DO NOT congregate in the main school hallway (by the school office) at dismissal time.** Parents, this is a must.

START OF THE SCHOOL DAY (CHANGE)

We have an easy and effective way to add 10 minutes per day to our educational time just by starting the day at 8:20. **For the 17-18 school year, the first bell will ring at 8:15, and the starting bell will ring at 8:20.** All school buses arrive before 8:10, so this will not be problematic for bus riders. Students whose parents provide transportation must arrive between 7:45-8:10.

School STARTS at 8:20. To clarify, this will mean that kids are in their desks, ready to begin when the bell rings. We will continue to participate in the Sherburne County Truancy Intervention Project to improve upon tardy and late arrivals this year. Our goal is not to be punitive, but to establish more workable procedure for all families.

FIRST DAY FACTS –

- **Classes for students in Kindergarten through fifth grade will begin on Tuesday, August 29th at 8:20 and dismiss at 2:40.**
- Preschool students (age 3) will have their first day on Tuesday, September 5th.
- Prekindergarten students (age 4) will begin their school year on Wednesday, September 6th.

PARENT DRIVE DAYS –

Parents are reminded that Elk River Public Schools won't begin until Tuesday, September 5th, hence there will be **NO BUS SERVICE ON AUGUST 30-31. Parents will have to provide transportation on these three days.** Also, be reminded that the Labor Day weekend includes no school on Friday, September 1st and Monday, September 4th.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

- All K-5th grade families that will use bus transportation during the school year should use it on the first day (which is Tuesday, September 5th for bus service) and throughout the beginning of the school year to assist the bus company and us in working out some of the inevitable issues that large group transportation will bring.

VOLUNTEER EXPECTATIONS (CHANGE)

Use this link to volunteer your assistance. Thank you for your willingness to help!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044fafad23aafe3-school>

(Use this link to sign up for the many and varied volunteer opportunities that will be available this school year. Watch for details in upcoming newsletters, and prepare to donate about 10 hours of your time in making our school year a success!)