



Frequently Asked Questions For New Parents



Q. How many volunteer/service hours do I need?

A. 20 hours per family. Examples: Volunteer to drive for field trips, help in the classroom when teacher asks, come to PTO & booster meetings, participate in class yard clean up, volunteer at PTO meetings to help with concessions, help with book fair, help sell HOPE cards, help at the parish gift store etc.

Please note you must take the EIM Basic Workshop to be able to volunteer at the school. Please visit the diocese website for more info: www.austindiocese.org. You must take an EIM workshop every 3 years (either Basic or Refresher).

Q. Is there a list of all the volunteer opportunities?

A. No, although there are plenty of opportunities available! Ask at the school office, ask your parent buddy (if you have one), ask your child's teacher, and read *Illuminations* for available opportunities.

Q. How do I keep track of my service hours?

A. Log your service hours in RenWeb. The school administration tracks the number of service hours and reports them to the parish.

Q. What is RenWeb?

A. This is the website for all the information about your child's classes, grades, lesson plans, etc. It also has lots of information about school events. You can also get a copy of the school newsletter *Illumination*, a parent directory of the school, and it is where you enter your service hours.

Q. How do I log my service hours in RenWeb?

A. After you log onto RenWeb, click the **Family Information** button on the left side of the page (under the School Information and Student Information buttons). On the right side of the page, your family's info will appear in a **My Profiles** box -- your name, your spouse's name, and your child's name. Click on your name to highlight it. Your info will appear in the box just to the right of your names. It will have 3 tabs: **Contact Info**, **Service Hours**, and **Preferences**. Click the **Service Hours** tab, click the **Add Service Hours** option, and add your hours. You can only add one event at a time (it's a cumbersome process), but once you're all caught up, it will be easier to enter your hours.

Q. What is a Mass Buddy?

A. Each student in pre-K3, pre-K4, Kinder, and 1st Grade is assigned a student in grade 6, 7, or 8 who sits with them at Mass. The older students help the younger students to behave in Mass. It is customary (but not required) for Mass buddies to exchange small gifts at Christmas and end of year.

Q. What is yard clean up?

A. Each class is assigned a specific Sat of the month to help clean up the school grounds. We pick up trash, rake leaves, etc. At the beginning of the school year, each class will be assigned a month. Please check the newsletter or with your homeroom parent for the month your child's class is scheduled.

Q. What do we wear on Mass day?

A. Mass day is usually Fridays unless we have a holy day that week. Girls wear white shirts and uniform skirts/jumper and the boys wear pants and white shirts. If Friday is a school holiday, then mass will either be rescheduled or there will be no mass that week.

Q. What is Spirit wear day?

A. On Mondays the students may wear blue jeans (pants not shorts) with the school t-shirt: current fun run or fall fest shirts, yellow PTO shirt, or booster shirt.

You can also wear the t-shirt with your uniform shorts or skirt. There is no spirit wear day if Monday is a holiday. Booster club and PTO will have T-shirts for sale during orientation.

Q. What is the PTO?

A. It is our Parent - Teacher Organization. We have meetings every other month on a Tuesday. Dinner is available to purchase starting at 6 and then the meeting starts at 7pm. Each class will be assigned a PTO meeting and your home room parents will ask for volunteers to help serve the meal. The PTO provides the food; the class just has to serve. The class is also responsible for providing desserts, soda, and water.

Q. What is the Booster club?

A. This is our athletic club. They have fundraisers to help our sports teams. Students in 5th – 8th are able to participate in various sports. If your child participates in a sport, then you are a member of the Booster Club. We are always in need of help to work the concession stands at home games. If you can help or would like to join, contact the Booster Club president John Vondrak at jvondrak@sbcglobal.net.

Q. What is the Academic/Athletic Awards Banquet?

A. The banquet is sponsored by the Booster Club, and is held in the spring. Students who are being recognized or awarded for academic or athletic honors will receive an invitation to the banquet.

Q. What is the Fall Fest?

A. It is the one big fundraiser for the church. As a ministry of the church, we help support the festival. Each class creates a theme basket which will be auctioned. Also, most classes sign up to work at a booth at the festival (for example, the Dunk Tank). Every family at the school is encouraged to sell raffle tickets, buy t-shirts, and come out to the fair and have fun.

Q. What is the Halloween Carnival?

A. The carnival is a fun fundraiser for the PTO and 8th grade. Each grade is assigned a booth (for example, Fishing Pond). Each grade is responsible for building the booth, equipping it (for example, with fishing rods), setting it up before the carnival, working the booth during the carnival, and taking down the booth after the carnival. The PTO provides the prizes awarded at each booth.

Q. What are Box Tops for education?

A. Certain brands of food (for example, General Mills) have a Box Top on the package that can be turned in for money. Each box top coupon is worth 10 cents for our school. So please start saving them today. www.boxtops4education.com/

Q. How much money is each family asked to raise for the school and how do I do it?

A. Each family is asked to raise \$300. You can do it by buying HOPE cards, collecting pledges for the Fun Run, or writing a check to the school.

Q. What is HOPE?

A. Help Our Parish Educate. You can generate free income for the school by buying a gift card for the store you shop at. There are many stores: HEB, Randall's, various department stores, fast food restaurants and other merchants. If you buy the gift card for \$100, it is worth \$100. It does not cost you any extra but the school receives a fee for each HOPE card sold from the vendor. You can purchase from the school or church office.

Q. What is the Fun Run?

A. It is the school's one big fundraiser. Each year in April, the whole school participates by running at either the nearby park or in the parking lot (for inclement weather). Each child receives a pledge sheet and asks friends, family, or neighbors for support. They should ask for a flat amount, rather than a pledge per lap. You will receive more information about this year's Fun Run in January.

Q. What is Field Day?

A. This is a fun, Junior Olympics—style day for all students. This is not a fundraiser. The athletic department is in charge of the event, which is usually towards the end of the school year in May. The PreK 3, 4, and Kinder classes are on one day and the 1st-8th graders are on another day. Your child is assigned a team and a team color. On their field day please send them to school in comfortable athletic wear with the team's color (for example: On the Red Team wear a red t-shirt or red bandana). You will receive more information closer to the event as to which activities your class is participating in.

Q. How much is a lunch ticket? What about milk tickets?

A. Lunch tickets are \$3.75 each, and milk tickets are 30¢ each. You can purchase tickets in the office or in the mornings before assembly.

Q. Where should I pick up my child from after care?

A. Before 4:30, you may come to the front office. After 4:30, drive to the back by the school playground. The back gate near the playground will be open.
The cost for after care is not included in tuition.

Q. Why should I check the school website?

A. The school website is a great way to keep up with school events. You will find news about each teacher and classroom, special notices from the principal, copies of the school and parish newsletters and much more! The website is <http://www.st-ignatius.org/school/>