



SAINT ROSE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Pursuing excellence in faith, knowledge, and virtue.

St. Rose Catholic School Mission Statement

Saint Rose Catholic School partners with parents to provide a high-quality Catholic education with academic excellence in a faith-filled community for children in preschool through eighth grade.

Prayer for Lent

Heavenly Father,

As I enter another year in my Lenten journey, guide me to the path that leads to you. Fill my heart with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace as I strive to become the-best-version-of-myself, honestly admitting my shortcomings and sins. As I renew my resolve each day to become a better person, let me hear your voice in the deepest reaches of my heart. Give me rest in you. Help me to accept others, showing them your great love instead of casting judgment. Stay with me through the busy days of this lenten season and remind me that when I need comfort, solitude, wisdom, or guidance, I can always turn to you. Help me develop discipline and generosity through fasting and almsgiving, and come closer to you through prayer this Lent. In your name I pray,

Amen.

Message From the Principal: 2024 - 2025 Registration

What an incredible 2023 - 2024 school year it has been! Every school year is different, but what always remains consistent is the joy and excitement I see on the faces of our students. My staff and I are honored that you have placed your children's education and safety in the hands of the St. Rose Catholic School staff so that we may positively impact your children's lives. It is hard to believe we are at the midpoint of the academic year and beginning planning for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

We will begin our 2024 - 2025 registration for currently registered students in early February. All currently enrolled students are guaranteed a spot for the upcoming school year provided they register during the "Returning St. Rose Catholic School Student" enrollment period. This early enrollment period allows us to budget for the upcoming school year properly.

Registration for the 2024 - 2025 school year will occur electronically through your

FACTS Family Portal. You will receive an email from Michelle Machado notifying families that they may register via FACTS. (Please remember that you must be current on tuition, and your children must be current on their immunization status to receive this link.)

- **Registration:** Registration is broken down into tiers: (1) Preschool registration and (2) K - 8th-grade registration:
 - **Preschool Registration:** \$200.00 per student
 - Returning preschool students: February 5 - 9 (current preschool students guaranteed a spot)
 - Siblings of currently enrolled Pre-K through 8th-grade students: February 12 - 16
 - New Family Registration: March 4 - 15 (non-current students and families)
 - **K - 8th Grade Registration:** Registration rates of \$350.00 apply to returning families through March 1 and become \$400.00 on March 2, 2024.
 - Returning currently enrolled Pre-K through 7th-grade students: February 12 - 23 (current students guaranteed a spot)
 - Siblings of returning students: February 26 - March 1 (brothers and sisters of current students who are not currently enrolled)
 - New Family Registration: March 4 - 15 (non-current families)

I struggle constantly with balancing the cost of a Catholic education to families with the need to provide an excellent educational experience for our students while fairly compensating my dedicated faculty and staff. I understand your financial commitment to providing your children with a quality education rooted in faith, and I appreciate your continued support.

After careful consideration and discernment, the School Advisory Committee and I have implemented a modest tuition increase for the 2024 - 2025 academic year. This adjustment is necessary to maintain high education standards and support the remarkable work of our faculty and staff. The K - 8th grade Non Parishioner and Parishioner 2024-2025 tuition rates will increase by 5%, equating to a \$349.00 and \$329.00 annual increase respectively over the previous year. We want to highlight that this increase is lower than those implemented by some of our sister Diocese of Monterey Catholic Schools. Additionally, the Pre-K tuition will experience a 7% increase, with the exact annual adjustment dependent on factors such as half or full days and the number of days a child attends per week. Consumable and Technology Fees will also increase this year by \$30.00 - \$50.00 (grade dependent) per student as inflation has raised the cost of these materials to the school.

These increases will allow us to maximize the recruitment and retention efforts of our beloved teachers and staff at St. Rose Catholic School and keep up with inflation. Not supplying this cost of living increase to my staff means that they will make less money year after year. As you may know, our teachers and staff are not compensated on par with our local public schools, but they CHOOSE to be at St. Rose Catholic School for YOUR CHILDREN. My staff typically make between 80 and 85% of what they can earn at a local public school and do not receive a benefit package commensurate with the public schools.

- **Fundraising Requirements:** Tuition and fees account for roughly 83% - 84% of the total cost of educating a child at St. Rose Catholic School. The remainder of the cost must be covered by families through service hours and fundraising. We have been listening to your valuable feedback and considering ways to address the fundraising requirements. In

response to your input, and new for the 2024 - 2025 school year, families can opt out of participating in traditional fundraising activities by choosing an alternative option: an increased tuition cost. This initiative aims to provide flexibility and accommodate the preferences of our diverse school community. This year, families will have the option to:

- **Continue as is and "opt-in"**: Families will be required to participate in three fundraisers: Stampede to Race and Read (required to raise at least \$400.00), St. Rose Catholic School Dinner Auction (required to donate an item at a valuation of at least \$100.00), and the Drive Thru BBQ (required to sell at least two tickets for a return of \$120.00). These three fundraisers guarantee at least \$620.00 coming back to the school.
- **"Opt out" of fundraising**: Families will not need to participate in any of the three fundraisers listed above. Families may opt out of fundraising for \$1000.00, which will be spread throughout their yearly tuition payments.
- Please note the following:
 - The opt-out fee of \$1000.00 is more than the opt-in requirements as we want people involved in school fundraisers, and the \$620.00 coming back to the school is the minimum amount we receive. We often receive more, which is put back into school programs.
 - If families opt into fundraising and do not participate in any or all of the three fundraisers, they will be billed proportionately: Stampede \$600.00, Auction \$200.00, and BBQ \$200.00.
- **Tuition Assistance**: Tuition assistance is available to students in grades K -8 on a limited basis. Most monies allocated for assistance come from donations and our Scholarship Drive during our St. Rose Catholic School Auction event. Over the past two years, St. Rose Catholic School has been able to offer nearly \$120,000.00 in assistance to families in need. The application window is from February 5 - March 15. We award financial aid on a need-only basis, and those who apply during the February 5 - March 15 application window will be granted priority. The process is as follows:
 - Family applies through a third party, FACTS Management Company.
 - After reviewing the application and required documents (you will need to utilize your most recent tax information), FACTS will recommend the amount of tuition assistance an applicant can be awarded. (Assistance is based upon tuition only, not associated fees.)
 - After reviewing FACTS recommendations and confirming monies received through the Scholarship Drive and scholarship donations, we will send out letters of tuition awards in mid-April.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me individually if you are in a situation where you may not be able to send your child(ren) to St. Rose Catholic School due to financial hardship. I will do my best to work with families to find a solution. To apply for tuition assistance, please click [here](#) beginning on February 5.

I know all families have a choice to make, and I am blessed that you have entrusted my staff and me with your children's education and that my staff chose a career at St. Rose Catholic School. I am proud to keep our annual tuition as low as possible. I appreciate and value your decision to trust the St. Rose Catholic School staff to holistically educate your children and reinforce the beliefs you teach them at home. I believe, as most of you do, that the product is

worth the investment as 90% of you stated in the 2022 - 2023 Parent Satisfaction Survey that "you feel that the education received is worth the tuition cost" and 97.5% of you agreed or strongly agreed that "spiritual and family values are reinforced at St. Rose."

Thank you and I look forward to partnering with you in your children's education once again in the 2024 - 2025 school year!

New Items/Upcoming Events

Looking Ahead: It is never too early to start thinking about summer. We have a parent in our school community who works for an Early Start company that offers specialty care for children with learning disabilities and delays. The company will be offering summer camps to support families with potential services. Please see the flyers at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Catholic Schools Week: National [Catholic Schools Week](#) 2024 is scheduled from Sunday, January 28, through Saturday, February 3. Catholic Schools Week is a celebration of Catholic schools in the United States and is in its 50th year. The week is filled with activities to celebrate our educational system. Some of these activities involve theme dress days. Please remember that we have a wide age range of students at school, and we emphasize modesty and consideration. and all outfits should follow the school dress code in the [St. Rose Catholic School Handbook](#). Students must wear their school uniform if they do not dress up in the day's theme. The following is a detailed snapshot of the coming week, and we encourage all students and families to participate in this event.

- **Sunday, January 28:** Catholic Schools Week Kickoff Mass @ 10:00
- **Monday, January 29:** Character Dress Up Day: Students may pick their favorite book or television character and dress up like them. Students will also be treated to a school-wide yoyo assembly at 8:30 in the Parish Hall.
- **Tuesday, January 30:** Decades Dress Day: Students may dress up in a theme from a specific decade (60s, 70s, etc.) Students are asked to bring non-perishable canned food with a "quick open top," as we will donate collected foods to a local charity organization.
- **Wednesday, January 31:** Grandparents and Special Friends Day: Grandparents and Special Friends are invited to join us for a 10:00 school Mass and follow-up lunch and classroom activities until 2:00 dismissal. Students may wear their school Mass uniform or formal attire, including shoes.
- **Thursday, February 1:** Sports Dress Up Day: Students may wear their jerseys/shirts of their favorite sports team or wear Spirit or Stampede shirts with jeans or athletic shorts. (Please note that leggings and yoga pants are prohibited in our dress code.) The Spirit Club will host a pep rally at 1:15 for K - 8th grade students.
- **Friday, February 2:** PJ and Crazy Hair Day: Students may wear their pajamas and school shoes and have a crazy hairstyle. Students will meet with their buddy classes to watch a movie and may bring a favorite stuffed animal to remain in the classrooms.

This week is typically full of fun and excitement for the students. Again, parents should think conservatively when considering what their children wear to school. We have students from 2yrs.

8mos. up to 14-year-olds and want to be considerate of all ages. A rule of thumb I like to go by is if you are questioning if something is appropriate, please err on the side of caution and go with a more conservative look.

February Dates to Remember

Please remember that these dates or times may have to change between the writing of this newsletter and the time of the event. Always be sure to check out our up-to-date calendar located on our [website](#).

February

- 1: Boys and Girls Home Basketball Games @ 3:45
- 5: Preschool Registration for Returning Pre-K Students Begins, Middle School Academic Awards @ 8:00, Kindergarten Information Meetings @ 8:15 and 6:00
- 6: PTO Board Meeting @ 8:00
- 7: Buck A Jeans Day, Boys and Girls Basketball Away Games @ 3:45
- 8: Boys and Girls Home Basketball Games @ 3:45
- 9: Preschool Registration for Returning Pre-K Students Ends, Middle School Dance @ 6:30
- 10: First Reconciliation Retreat @ 11:00
- 12: K - 8 Registration for Returning Students Begins, Preschool Registration for Siblings of Current Students Begins, 8th Grade Getty/Reagan Library Field Trip
- 13: 8th Grade Getty/Reagan Library Field Trip, Jeans and Valentines Theme Top Dress, PTO General Meeting @ 3:00, Boys and Girls Away Basketball Games @ 3:45
- 14: Ash Wednesday Mass @ 10:00
- 15: 8th Grade Free Dress, Boys and Girls Basketball Home Games @ 3:45, SAC Board Meeting
- 16: Preschool Registration for Siblings of Current Students Ends
- 19: No School/Presidents Day
- 21: Lenten Mass @ 10:00, Boys and Girls Away Basketball Games @ 3:45
- 23: K - 8 Registration for Returning Students Ends, Gospel Awards @ 8:30, Spirit/Stampede Shirts
- 26: Registration for Siblings of Current Students Begins, CVPL Basketball Playoffs TBA
- 28 - 30: 6th Grade Golden Gate Field Trip
- 28: Lenten Mass @ 10:00
- 3/1: Diocesan Professional Development Day/No School, Registration for Siblings of Current Students Ends

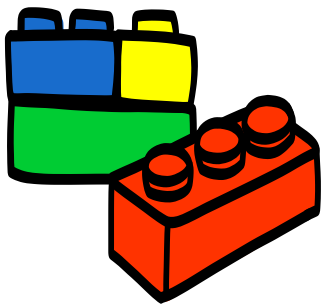
Thank you again for your support and efforts in making the St. Rose Catholic School community such a great place for my staff to educate your children!

Trevor



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For more information contact the office near your area:

Santa Barbara 805.259.7820

Atascadero 805.637.0802