



SAINT ROSE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Pursuing excellence in faith, knowledge, and virtue.

August 17, 2022,

St. Rose Catholic School Community,

We are excited to open our doors on Monday for the 244 registered students and 163 school families! Today, all classes are at capacity (Pre-K, 24 and K - 8th, 28) except Kindergarten, 6th, 7th, and 8th. My faculty and staff have been tirelessly working to have their classrooms perfect for welcoming the students. Many may be unaware of the work and effort educators put in before the beginning of the school year; “summer” is not all play and down time for educators. Many staff take continuing education classes, attend professional development, work on lesson plans, and work on items to keep their credential and employment requirements current. Most of my staff from the 2021 - 2022 school year will return to St. Rose Catholic school for the upcoming year. I have made some staffing changes that I feel are in the best interest of the school and its children. Please see the following for new employees and position changes:

- **New employees for the 2022 - 2023 school year include:**
 - Ellie Bass: Kindergarten classroom teacher
 - Camryn Berra: 5th-grade classroom teacher
 - Lynn Adams: Elementary classroom assistant and extended care
 - Emily Ezzo: Preschool staff
- **2022 - 2023 employee shuffling:**
 - Audrey Roza: I suppose this is better late than never; Ms. Roza will be splitting her time between assistant principal and student support teacher.
 - Jeannine Visbal: Ms. “V.” will be returning to middle school to teach science three periods per day, middle school robotics elective one period per day, elementary science support teacher one period per day, and curriculum and professional development director one period per day.
 - Donna Felgenhauer: Ms. “Donna” will be working part-time in preschool for the upcoming year and sharing her position with a new employee, Emily Ezzo.
 - Irene Huggins: Ms. Huggins will be spread out in her duties this year. While she will have some set responsibilities, she will be available to plug holes or fill gaps whenever and wherever they arise. She will also spend more time in the front office assisting parents and students.

Unfortunately, I have not successfully found a fit for the vacant Spanish teaching position. Over the summer, I interviewed three candidates for the position; however, there was not a fit to be

found. I have time slots built into our current schedule if we can find a Spanish teacher during the first few months of school.

Current COVID guidelines and protocols are very similar to those that St. Rose Catholic School followed in the spring of 2022. Our [2022 - 2023 COVID 19 Operations Plan](#) is posted on our website, and this 13-page document is far from the 2020 - 2021 100-page-plus document.

Currently, I will send out notification letters in the following scenarios:

- Schoolwide notification that a positive case of COVID 19 has been identified on campus.
- Cohort or classwide notification that a positive case of COVID 19 has been identified in your children's classroom or grade level.
- An exposure letter if your child has been identified as a close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) of a COVID-positive individual.
- An individual letter for those that have been diagnosed with COVID 19.

Based on current protocols (which, as you know, are ever-changing), there is minimal likelihood of a classwide shutdown or schoolwide closure. There has been no recent talk of a vaccine "mandate" for education at the state level or universal masking for students in the classroom at the Diocesan, county, or state level. Once again, we have seen changes and revisions to protocols frequently in the past, so please be aware of any possibility.

I am excited to begin my 26th year at St. Rose Catholic School. I've recently seen more children of my former students enroll in the school each year. I love seeing this; it makes me more confident that great things are happening at St. Rose Catholic School.

I look forward to seeing all of our returning students and families and am excited to get to know the new members of our community!

New Items/Upcoming Events

August 22, 2022: The first day of school for St. Rose Catholic School is upon us! Please feel free to walk your children onto school, their classrooms, or even the playground. As students may have quite a few supplies, they may drop them off in their classrooms or outside of their classroom if the door is closed. After dropping items off, they may proceed to the playground to have some free time until school begins. **As a friendly reminder, we ask that children are not dropped off before 7:30 (unless they are in Advanced Band) as supervision does not begin until 7:30.**

"New Family" Orientation: We will be hosting two identical New Family Orientations this year. These are available and open to all new families who joined the St. Rose Catholic School community during the 2021 - 2021 school year or recently for the 2022 - 2023 school year. We will host these at **8:15 AM on Wednesday, August 24 and 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 23.** We have typically held these in the Parish Hall, but out of respect for our community's different COVID 19 comfort levels, **we will host these outdoors in our school courtyard. We will have chairs available, and bringing a device that you can follow along on electronically is recommended.**

"Parent Volunteer" Orientation: We will be hosting two identical Parent Volunteer Orientations this year. These are available and open to all families who plan on participating in their service

hour requirements in the presence of children. We will host these at **9:15 AM on Wednesday, August 24 and 6:00 PM on Tuesday, August 24**. Once again, We have typically held these in the Parish Hall, but out of respect for our community's different COVID 19 comfort levels, we will host these **outdoors in our school courtyard. We will have chairs available, and bringing a device that you can follow along on electronically is recommended.**

Middle School Orientation: All middle school students will attend our Middle School Orientation at **8:05 AM on the school yard on Tuesday, August 24**. At that time, the students will get to know the middle school staff, read the middle school handbook, and prepare for the upcoming school year. **Parents are encouraged to attend** (feel free to bring a lawn chair or two) so that they may hear what their middle school student hears. For some reason, what middle school students hear, and what they report back to their parents can sometimes not be transferred correctly. **Students in grades 6 - 8 will also receive their Chromebooks after the meeting if:**

- **A parent attends the meeting, and the student and parent sign the "Chromebook Release Form" or**
- **A parent prints the "Chromebook Release Form" from home, signs it, and sends it with their child.**

Students who have not turned in a signed "Chromebook Release Form" will receive their Chromebooks once they have turned these in to Mr. Greaves. The release form is in the [Middle School Handbook](#), which is posted online.

First School Mass: Our first school Mass will be held on **Friday, August 26, at 10:00 AM**. Diocese of Monterey Bishop Danny will host it. **Students must abide by the St. Rose Catholic School "Mass Uniform," as seen on page 26 of our [2022 - 2023 Parent Handbook](#).** Our school Mass is open to any parents who may want to attend. **As we have many new students at our school who may be unfamiliar with a Catholic Mass, we will be hosting a "practice Mass" on Tuesday, August 23 at 2:00, for all students in grades K - 8.**

St. Rose Catholic School Choir: We are pleased to announce that we will be able to have a school Youth Choir once again. Please see the communication at the end of this newsletter from our Choir Director, Ms. Stefania Knight.

Middle School Athletics: Be on the lookout for more information coming home from Mr. Cooper regarding the Fall sports season. Mr. Cooper is entering his 5th year as our school Athletic Director and will also be coaching some of our offerings this school year. This year's athletics offerings will be more similar to "pre - COVID" times regarding athletics offered and the timing of seasons.

A quick note from Mr. Cooper: "Hello Parents, Summer has flown by! I wanted to let you and your student know that we would like to field a **Fall flag football team (co-ed) and Girls volleyball team this year.** If you are interested, please email me at acooper@saintrosecatholicschool.org. I will start a list of students wanting to play this season."

2022 - 2023 [St. Rose Catholic School Handbook](#): Please take some time to look through the 2022 - 2023 school handbook, especially if you are a family that is new to the community. **All agreement forms (page 38) are due to the office or homeroom teacher no later than September 2, 2022.** I do want to point out some changes from previous years:

- **Fundraising: Tuition and fees account for 83% of the cost of educating a child at St. Rose Catholic School. The remaining 17% must be made up through fundraising, and all families are required to participate in fundraising efforts or “opt-out” for a fee.** I have made two changes for the upcoming school year; changing the Stampede requirements and getting rid of the Scrip/Charity Mania fundraiser:
 - **Stampede to Race and Read (page 13):** We are at the point where our Stampede to Race and Read is pretty dialed in. In previous years I had budgeted \$30,000.00 in net proceeds from the event toward our budget. **This year I am budgeting \$60,000.00 in net proceeds. This means that each family is responsible for raising \$400.00 for the event, up from \$200.00 in previous years.** This is not as daunting as it sounds. Look at it from this perspective: If your children were to send out 30 total “asks”, and 20 respond and pledge \$20.00, you have met your fundraising requirement for the Stampede. In the past, many families easily met the \$400.00 threshold; many did not. There is a direct correlation between “asks” and pledges. **Families not meeting the \$400.00 requirement will be billed on their October FACTS statement.**
 - **Scrip/Charity Mania:** Previously, families were required to raise \$196.00 each from either participating in Scrip or Charity Mania. **Through survey feedback and one-on-one conversations with some of you, it is apparent that these choices were dated and drawn out over too large of a time frame during the school year. A change was necessary.** The roughly \$30,000.00 raised from these events has shifted to the Stampede, a student-centered event that does not require as much work or tap into parent pocketbooks. The Stampede will take place in September, and families will complete this fundraising requirement during the school year’s first quarter.
- **First Period “Tardies: (page 23): The first-period tardy policy has shifted to alignment with the classroom tardy policy.** Three tardies in a quarter equal detention. The only change is that there is no longer a \$15.00 fee assessed for the first period “tardy” detention. Please make every effort to be at school on time; tardy students affect their learning and their classmates' learning.
- **“Heavy Winter Jacket” (page 25):** Students may still wear blue or black non-school logo-heavy jackets; however, they are **for outdoor wear only**. Students can wear them over a school logo sweatshirt or fleece jacket if they wish to wear more than their school uniform polo while in the classroom.
- **Fitbits and Airpods (page 28):**
 - **Fitbits have been added to the Cell Phone, and Smartwatch policy** as the newer fitbits can be used for communications and responses to notifications. Once again, Cell phones, fitbits, and smartwatches are allowed at school but must be “off” and in a student’s locker or backpack during the school day. At 2:45, students may use these devices in front of the school.

- **Airpods are no longer allowed at school.** Unfortunately, we've had too many students lose or "misplace" one or both AirPods, and we've had too many cases of students wearing them when they should not, as students can easily hide them.

While there are other minor changes to the handbook, the ones listed above are the most likely to affect children and families.

School Safety/Emergency: As it should be, safety should be at the forefront of everyone's mind. We take this seriously at St. Rose Catholic School; teachers review safety protocols, and students regularly review and practice safety drills.

- **Safety Drills: St. Rose Catholic School students participate in monthly fire drills and bi-monthly earthquake and lockdown drills.** These drills are unannounced yet scheduled ahead of time. Drills are reviewed, and revisions to the protocols are made if deemed necessary.
- **On Campus Emergency: All SRS staff are part of a school-wide "emergency team".** Each emergency team handles specific duties in the case of an actual emergency. Emergency team responsibilities and duties are reviewed yearly at our beginning of the year staff meetings.
- **School Gate: A gate only works if it is closed.** Roughly ten years ago, when we installed the gate, there was a mix of parents in support of and against the gate being installed. I would venture to guess that nearly 100% of families are in support of a locking gate. Please be sure to close the gate behind you; the locking mechanism only works if the gate is fully closed.
- **School Parking Lot:** I don't have a "perfect" solution for the parking lot. **I implore you all to drive with caution (slowly), refrain from parking in crosswalks, and make a right-hand turn out of the parking lot when exiting at pickup.** Creston Rd. is already incredibly busy, and it only seems to be getting busier.

Did You Know?

Are you an Amazon shopper? Likely, many of you purchase from Amazon regularly. Did you know that Amazon has a program that supports select charities, including St. Rose Catholic School? **The program is called [AmazonSmile](#). It is the same as Amazon.com but with the ability to choose a charity with .5% of all purchases; I would like nothing better than for you to choose "St. Rose of Lima School" as your designated charity. .5% may not seem very much; however, that .5% adds up quickly if we work as a team.** Please consider supporting St. Rose Catholic School through this program!

August and September Dates to Remember

Please note that I will always put upcoming dates to remember at the end of the newsletter in all of my monthly newsletters (which typically come out the first week of every month). These dates, however, may have to be altered during the time of the writing and the time of the event. **Always be sure to check out our up-to-date calendar located on our [website](#).**

August:

- 22: First Day of School K - 8, Extended Care Opens
- 23: Middle School Student/Parent Orientation @ 8:05 on Playground, Parent Volunteer Orientation @ 6:00 in School Courtyard, New Family Orientation @ 7:00 in School Courtyard
- 24: New Family Orientation @ 8:15 in the School Courtyard, Parent Volunteer Orientation @ 9:15 in the School Courtyard
- 26: School Mass w/Bishop Danny @ 10:00, Emergency Packets Due

September:

- 1: Stampede to Race and Read Kickoff
- 2: Minimum Day/Noon Dismissal, Parent Handbook Agreement Form Due
- 5: Labor Day/No School
- 6: Middle School Back to School Night @ 6:00
- 9: Red, White and Blue Theme Free Dress Day
- 12 - 16: Renaissance STAR Testing Week 1
- 13: Pre-K through 4th Grade Class Picture Day, Elementary Back to School Night @ 6:00
- 14: Pre-K, 5-8th Grade Class Picture Day
- 15: SAC Board Meeting @ 5:30
- 16: Minimum Day/Noon Dismissal, 8th Grade Free Dress
- 18: Catechetical Sunday Mass @ 10:00
- 19 - 23: Renaissance STAR Testing Week 2
- 21: Buck A Jeans Day
- 26: Professional Development Day/No School
- 29: School Picture Make-Ups
- 30: Stampede to Race and Read, Gospel Awards, Spirit Shirts

Thank you
Trevor Knable

Principal, St. Rose Catholic School

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA YOUTH CHOIR
FIRST REHEARSAL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2022

TUESDAY 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

Class in St Rose of Lima church (choir loft)

THURSDAY 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

Class in St Rose of Lima church (choir loft)

**FRIDAY MASSES (8:30AM) AND
SUNDAY FAMILY MASSES (10:00AM)**

First mass on Friday 26th



SAINT ROSE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



CHOIR

**Come and join
us!**

CHOIR EVERYONE CAN SING!

If they don't want to sing but you play an instrument... we need them! let you child come and join us!

Let your child come and have fun with us and learn music in a new way.

They don't need to be perfect singers or even know how to sing. Voice is like any other instrument: we learn to use it with practice!

Our voice is our own instrument and there are many benefits to singing in a choir!



WHAT'S NEW?

CONCERTS

Christmas carols
And much more to come!...
Planning to take the choir to the San Francisco Pueri Cantores Festival. This is something that we'll work on together and hopefully, the youth choir can participate this year.

INSTRUMENTS

I am looking forward to including children who play instruments in our choir. We'll practice playing instruments during special rehearsals for instrument players.

CHOIR ROBES

We will take our choir to the next level of professionalism and invest in the best choir. The St Rose of Lima Youth Choir!

A warm invitation to our youth Choir!

Dear St. Rose Families,

I hope you are doing well and experiencing the many blessings of God and that you all had a healthy, fun, and relaxing summer! My name is Stefania Knight, and this is my 2st year as the Choir Director/Organist here at St. Rose School. I am excited to start the school year and I am looking forward to getting to know each one of you!

These have certainly been challenging times, but there is nothing quite like the power of Music to bring a sense of the power of God into our lives! For this reason, I wanted to take this opportunity to invite your children to our youth Choir and join us for this school year. We are looking forward to bringing back our traditions and sharing the joy of music.

I would like to tell you a little about myself. I have enjoyed working with choirs for about 9 years. I have a Certificate Sacred Music Diocesan School of Music GDL, México. Where I learn to play piano and organ, orchestration, direction, and Gregoria Chant (Latin and Catholic Studies). I also have a Certificate in General Music from Cabañas Cultural Institute, School of Arts. GDL, México. I moved to the United States about 6 years ago and I live here in Paso Robles. For now, I work at a preschool as a Teacher in Paso Robles, and I have been the organist of St Rose of Lima Parish for about 4 years. I am also happily married to my husband who by the way is a musician too but most importantly a great dad and husband. We are blessed to have a smart and energetic five-year-old daughter that makes our days bright like the moon in the sky.

The rehearsals are going to be held in the choir loft Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Children might participate in extended daycare if they need to between the transitions. We are going to be offering flyers to invite children to be part of this life-changing experience. Our first rehearsal is going to be on August 23, 202, in the church. I invite you to bring your children or let them stay in the extended day for this first rehearsal so they can try and see if they like to be part of the choir.

I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to be a part of the St. Rose Catholic School family. Thank you for allowing me to share in the joy of your children. I am looking forward to seeing and meeting all of you soon!

Warmly with prayers, God Bless,

Mrs. Stefania Knight