



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 a New School Year

God of wisdom and might,
we praise you for the wonder of our being,
for mind, body and spirit.

Be with our children as they begin
a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and staff.

Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;
wisdom and knowledge to their minds
as they search for understanding;
and peace and zeal to their hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We are excited to open our doors on Monday, August 21, for the 247 registered students and 167 school families! Soon, my faculty and staff will work to have their classrooms perfect for welcoming 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 downtime for educators. Many staff take continuing education classes, attend professional development, work on lesson plans, and work on items to keep their credentials and employment requirements current.

Most of my staff from the 2022 - 2023 school year will return to St. Rose Catholic School for the upcoming year. We have made some staffing changes, and I am excited about the prospects of our new staff. Please see the following for new employees and position changes:

- **New employees for the 2023 - 2024 school year include:**
 - Chandra Needelman: First-grade classroom teacher
 - Brittny Garcin: 5th-grade classroom teacher

- Kellie Burbank: K - 8 Physical Education/Athletic Director
- Michelle Bower: Pre-K teacher (once we open our new Pre-K classroom in the late fall or early winter)
- 2023 - 2024 employee shuffling:
 - Brock Thoene: Last year, Mr. Thoene was a long-term substitute teacher for middle school math and social studies from early March through the remainder of the year. As a full-time employee, Mr. Thoene has joined the St. Rose Catholic School Staff.
 - Alicia Clipperton: Ms. Clipperton has moved on from teaching first grade and will take on Ms. Swensson's old position as an elementary aide and school librarian.

Unfortunately, I have not successfully found a fit for the vacant Spanish teaching position. I interviewed two candidates and offered the job to one; however, the candidate took a full-time Spanish position in the SLO Coastal School District. While online or remote Spanish programs are available, I am opposed to these as, after talking with administrators who have tried them, I feel minimal benefit received for the weekly time and cost allocations.

There have also been some programming changes that will go into effect for the upcoming school year:

- **8th Grade Math:** 8th-grade math will be split between the traditional "Math 8" and an "Algebra 1" course. Last spring, incoming 8th-grade students were assessed and placed in one of the two classes running simultaneously based on this assessment and teacher recommendations.
- **Middle School Electives:** Electives will now be on a semester-by-semester basis, not yearly.
 - First Semester: 7th and 8th-grade students will choose between Art, Leadership, and Athletics, and 6th-grade students will be placed in a Study Skills class.
 - Second Semester: 6th - 8th-grade students will choose between Art, Leadership, Athletics, and Robotics. Students will be able to select a class that they were not in during the first semester.
- **Elementary Technology:** 1st - 5th-grade students will have one 40-minute technology session weekly. We have purchased a curriculum that is age-appropriate and grade specific and includes but is not limited to, basic computer skills (lower elementary), G-Suite proficiency, keyboarding, and digital citizenship.
- **Choir/Art Club:** Unfortunately, our choir director, Stefania Knight, has moved on to pursue a career with the California Highway Patrol. I am currently in contact with an individual who may be interested in running the program moving forward. If this individual is a fit for the program, I will follow up and communicate this with the school community. We will also offer a two-day weekly Art Club after school. Please be on the lookout for information on this program from Ms. Demeter.
- **Room Shuffling:** While there were no programming changes, there was some space shuffling over the summer. New for the 2023 - 2024 school year:
 - Band: band will now be held in the library. We divided the library into a library area and a music area.
 - Art: we will now hold art in the old band room in the Parish Hall.

- Pre-K: we will open a new preschool room in the coming months. This new preschool room will be the old second-grade classroom.
- Second Grade: second grade has moved to the old third grade classroom.
- Third Grade: third grade has moved to the old Art/Extended Care room.
- Extended Care: we will hold extended care in room 7 after school.

This summer was unlike any summer I can remember regarding the sheer amount of work done to the physical plant. **We completed this work due to the success of our Dinner Auctions over the last few years and some generous donations of time, talent, and materials from some of our school and the local community.** Summer work included:

- New flooring and trim are in our new preschool room, second and third grades.
- The new preschool room, preschool restrooms, and second grade were all repainted.
- New lighting and ceiling fans were installed in the new preschool room and second grade.
- A new preschool restroom was completed in anticipation of opening our new preschool class.
- Plumbing and electrical work took place in multiple classrooms.
- Drywall was removed, and new shelving was installed in the old preschool classroom.
- Shade awnings over the K-8 lunch tables and Preschool eating areas.
- Addition of a 40-foot storage container for staff to organize and store their classroom items.
- Re-sealing and striping the school blacktop and the parking lot is currently underway.
- Additional fencing to expand the preschool yard and fencing behind the preschool yard to add another safety barrier if the gate near the Adult Learning Center is left open will be completed by August 21.
- Siding and trim repair was completed on the third-grade classroom.

A large portion of the work done this summer was completed by St. Rose Catholic School families who own businesses specializing in different areas. It is great that we can utilize school families for this kind of work. Huge thank you to:

- **Cambria Plumbing: Sturgeon Family**
- **Josh Jensen Painting: Josh Jensen**
- **Westerling Electric: Westerling Family**
- **Central Coast Renovations: Riva Family**
- **Davis and Sons Construction: Wesley Davis Family**

Additionally, thank you to **Justin Kelton** for helping me organize this and **Sherwin Williams Paints** for donating the paint. Thank you to **SRS PTO** for purchasing 20 storage shelving units for the storage container.

I am excited to begin my 27th 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

PTO Back to School Picnic @ Concerts in the Park: On Thursday, August 17th at 5:30 come join in on the first PTO event of the year while reconnecting with old friends and meeting some new ones. PTO has secured a reserved space across the street from Pappy McGregor's. Come early and help make our space even larger! Bring your food and beverages and relax in a fun community event! **Please see the attached flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information.**

August 18, 2023: Enjoy some time on campus for a **student and family meet and greet** with teachers. Preschool meet, and greet will be from 9:00 - 10:00, and K - 8 meet and greet will be from 10:00 - 11:00.

August August 21, 2023: The **first day of school for St. Rose Catholic School** is upon us! Please feel free to walk your children onto the school, classrooms, or 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 go to the playground for 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 begins at 7:30.**

"New Family" Orientation: This year, we will host two identical New Family Orientations. These are available and open to all new families who joined the St. Rose Catholic School community during the 2022 - 2023 school year or recently for the 2023 - 2024 school year. We will host these at **8:15 AM and 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 22.** These orientations will be in the Parish Hall, and we recommend bringing a device to follow along with the presentation electronically.

"Parent Volunteer" Orientation: This year, we will host two identical Parent Volunteer Orientations. 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 and 6:00 PM on Tuesday, August 22.** These orientations will be in the Parish Hall, and we recommend bringing a device to follow along with the presentation electronically.

Middle School Orientation: All middle school students will attend our Middle School Orientation at time and date TBA in the Parish Hall. 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 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 be transferred incorrectly. 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 into Ms. Visbal. The release form is in the [Middle School Handbook](#), posted online.

[2023 - 2024 St. Rose Catholic School Parent Handbook](#): Please review the 2023 - 2024 handbook, especially if you are a family new to the community. All agreement forms (page 38) are due to the office or homeroom teacher by September 1, 2023. I did want to point out a significant change from past years. New for 2023 - 2024, Wednesdays will be a 2:00 release day. This year, we are limiting our half days to Parent/Teacher conference weeks (November and April) and days leading into a major holiday/last day of school.

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 protocol revisions are made if 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 guess that nearly 100% of families support 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 only seems to be getting busier.

Ms. Swensson: As many of you know, Ms. Swensson retired at the end of the 2022 - 2023 school year after 27 years of service to the school. Ms. Swensson is looking forward to enjoying time with her family and asked that I pass a letter from her along:

Dear St. Rose parents and community,

I want to thank everyone for the thoughtful, love filled, and very generous basket of gifts! It was such a beautiful surprise. I will treasure each card from the students, and all of the unique, amazing gifts. I can't wait to use them in the coming days. (Special thanks to Edith Harrington for organizing this!)

I truly felt your love and appreciation in these, and ALL of the gifts I received this year, and in the past. You have filled my heart with much joy.

I am thankful and blessed to have been a part of this caring community for so many years. I will miss you and hope to see you “around.”

Blessings to all of you.

Love and prayers,

Silvia Swensson

August 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:

1 - 11: Office open 9:00 - 2:00

14: Office returns to regular hours 7:30 - 4:00

17: PTO Back to School Picnic @ 5:30

18: Pre-K Meet and Greet @ 9:00, K - 8 Meet and Greet @ 10:00

22: New Family Orientation @ 8:15/7:00 in Parish Hall, Parent Volunteer Orientation @ 9:15/6:00 in Parish Hall

23: School Mass @ 10:00, Early Release

30: Early Release, Pre-K - 4 Picture Day

31: Pre-K, 5 - 8 Picture Day

1: Emergency Packets Due, Parent Handbook Agreements Due

Thank you

Trevor Knable

Principal, St. Rose Catholic School

Please join the St. Rose PTO for a

Back to School

Picnic at

Concert in the Park

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

5:30 PM

PASO ROBLES DOWNTOWN PARK

**Pack a picnic and reconnect
with other St. Rose families at
Paso's Concert in the Park!**

**We will have a reserved space across
from Pappy McGregor's so please look
for the St. Rose PTO yard sign!**

**Please come early with
your chair and blanket
to reserve a larger area
for our community!**

**This is BYO so please
bring your own food
and beverages!**

Questions? Text Christine at 202-550-4152

