

# **The Unofficial St. Rose School Survival Guide**

**2009-2010**

**Seventh Edition**

This Survival Guide has been composed of surveys returned from school families, the experience of several parents when they were the "new+family, and by numerous other families who want to be helpful.

We hope that this Survival Guide will answer most of your questions that were not covered in the "Official" Student Handbook. There is no order to the items in this handbook to make sure that you read the entire book. Every page is full of great information.

It is important to remember that there are many people who wish to make your transition to St. Rose School easier. The Sunshine Committee, The Buddy Family program, The Principal, The Faculty, the office staff and your child's fellow students are all available to ease any frustrations you may have making this transition.

Please know that the Principal, Mrs. Kathy Ryan, is available by appointment but you can also contact her at any time during the school day. Mrs. Ryan is almost always on campus and if she does not have a previously scheduled meeting, she is available on a drop-in basis. Drop by her office before, during and after school hours.

Mrs. Aymar, the school counselor, is also a great resource for assistance if your child is having a hard time with the adjustment to a new school or having trouble making friends. Conferences with Mrs. Aymar are confidential. Mrs. Aymar's phone rings directly into her office and doesn't go through the school office.

We hope that you enjoy being a part of the St. Rose community. We are glad you are here!

**First Day of School:**

Parking will be tricky so come early! You will bring your child or children to the blacktop area behind the school. There will be older students with signs telling the children where their class lines up. Bring your camera, as the first day is full of memories in the making. Plus, the children will never look so neat and tidy again!

Once the children have lined up, there will be announcements, prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The theme for the year will be announced too!

After the children are in their classrooms all parents are invited for muffins and coffee in the multipurpose building where there will also be a Hospitality Day from 8:00am to 10:00am. Each school group or event chairpersons will have a table with a description of the group or committee. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and to sign up for some service hours. This is a great introduction to what is available at our school. Some Used Uniforms are also available during this event. This is an important event to help you get acquainted early with the St. Rose School Community and all the volunteer opportunities.

**Wednesday Envelope:**

You will hear the Wednesday envelope mentioned repeatedly in this handbook. This envelope is the primary communication between the School and the Parents. All signups for lunches, fundraisers, Dad's Club dinners, Picture Orders, Tuition and Scrip Statements etc. will come home each Wednesday. The oldest child in each family will receive the envelope. Make sure you get into a routine of looking at this information Wednesday evening. You should return the envelope (with any necessary signups) each Thursday. There is a decorating contest the first month of school for the envelopes. Participation is optional. All parents MUST cover their envelopes with clear contact paper so that they last the entire year.

The school office would be happy to assist you in receiving the contents of the envelope online or directly through your email. This saves paper, copying expenses, and helps the school to reduce their environmental footprint. There will be a form to fill out early in the school year if you choose to go this route. However, the empty manila envelope will still be sent home with your oldest child each Wednesday, so you can use it to return forms and communications to the school office.

**Back Packs:**

Kindergarten will need a small backpack for their "Dinosaur Pack" and their snack. Second Grade is when you start to see the books that your children are using on a daily basis. A wheeled backpack comes in handy when toting their books, lunch boxes, sweatshirts and jackets at the end of the day. It is mostly the younger students who use a backpack with wheels. All students are required to have a backpack. It is extremely important to have your child's name on the backpack in case it is lost or misplaced.

**Family Back to School Dinner:**

This event is usually held the Friday evening of the first week of school. Meet on the blacktop at the covered dining area for a great meal. The Dad's Club usually grills up some sausages to get us started. The meal is provided by the Parents Association and is usually pasta of

some sort. This is a great night to get to know other parents. Bring a blanket to sit on in the event the eating area picnic tables are occupied. Also, bring sweatshirts as it does cool down fairly quickly. The kids play at the playground or on the lawns and the parents all get reacquainted after the long summer. Bring your own beverages (even though this is the Wine Country, School Administration prefers no alcohol at events where the students are present) soda, water bottles or juice boxes for the kids. We bring appetizers and desserts to share! There is usually a parents vs. kids basketball game in the MPB (Multi Purpose Building) to finish up the evening. This is a really casual event and so much fun. Plan to stay from about 6:00pm - 8:30pm. Bring a small flashlight for the walk back to your car.

Make sure that you attend with your "Buddy Family" so that they can help with introductions. The teachers usually attend too and this is a great time for the children to see that indeed, they do eat and drink like the rest of us!

P.S. If you go back for seconds, use the same plate as the Parent Association is charged by the number of plates we use.

### **Buddy Families:**

As a new family to the St. Rose School community, you should have a "Buddy Family". This family will usually have a child in the same grade as your child. This family will contact you over the summer.

This program was developed to help new families and students with any questions that they might have and to enable the child to know someone on his or first day of school.

Before school starts, make sure that you meet your Buddy Family face to face. Ask the family to bring the most current yearbook for you to see some of the teachers and children that will be in your child's class.

Since the entire Kindergarten class is new, they are not assigned buddies, but have a get together prior to the First Day of School.

Hopefully this relationship will be so beneficial to you that you will consider being a buddy family next year!

### **The Annual Event**

As the name states, this is **THE** Event of the Year. This is a huge fundraiser for St. Rose School. The proceeds help reduce tuition costs for every family. As part of your registration fee, you paid a portion of one ticket. The balance will be billed about two months prior to the event. This is a great time to meet other families in a social setting. It is truly amazing how much fun we all are when the kids are with the sitters.

The event usually has a theme but don't be intimidated by the theme. Some people dress with the theme in mind, others just dress. Some recent themes have included, "Black and White Ball", "New York, New York", "Evening in New Orleans", "The Emerald Isle Gala", "Casino Royale", and "The Great Gatsby". The event is usually held on a Saturday evening in March

and includes cocktails, dinner, dancing and both live and silent auctions. The events have been held at the Vineyard Inn in Santa Rosa and the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa, and the Agatha Furth Center in Windsor.

You will receive all the information for this event in your Wednesday envelope. One of the notices is a signup for tables. Find some friends and arrange to put a table together. It really is a fun evening and nothing to stress about. If you don't know any other parents yet, the seating committee will be happy to seat you with other parents who are looking to make new friends.

It takes an amazing amount of effort to put together this type of event. ***Every new family is encouraged to contribute at least five service hours towards the "Annual Event"***. There are many different committees that are always looking for help (decorations, accounting, raffle tickets, soliciting auction items (double time for clean up crew) etc. This is also a great way to meet families from other grades. Look for the volunteer opportunities in the Wednesday envelope.

Bring your checkbook or credit card for payment of your drink tickets, raffle tickets and any auction purchases. Currently each class donates a "class craft" to be auctioned off. The older grades often run a raffle for a trip, big-screen TV. Remember, it is all going towards a good cause - our children!

#### **Band:**

St. Rose has a full music program that includes classroom instruction and an optional instrumental band program. There is a beginning band and an intermediate band. Both groups meet twice a week before school. Band is for fourth through eighth graders. There are at least two recitals through the school year at Christmas and in the spring. There is an extra charge for Band and the school may supply some instruments. The music teacher, Lynn Paulsen, has an office located just off the stage in the Multi-Purpose building.

#### **Carnivals and Special Events:**

There are two main carnivals each school year. The Halloween Carnival and Mission Day (which is held in May).

##### **Halloween Carnival:**

Held on 10/31 (or close to it!) Your child will wear his/her costume to school. There are certain requirements about roller blades, and no weapons, pretend or otherwise are allowed. All details will be sent home in the Wednesday envelope. The Room Parents bring a semi-healthy breakfast snack for the children to start their day. Each class has a booth at the Carnival and which open up after the costume parade. Families are welcome to attend and siblings can even march in the parade after the school children make their rounds. There are games, crafts and food booths and lots of fun for everyone. Work with your Room Parents and get some service hours while having a great time!

If possible, the day after Halloween is often a non-student day. Children can recuperate from Trick or Treating and faculty attend an in-service day.

**Holy Thursday:**

Since we are a Catholic school, there is always a special religious event on Holy Thursday. It may be a Seder Meal, a Journey to Jerusalem, a reenactment of the Last Supper, etc. It is always a quality event and much time and effort is put into the planning and execution of it. The faculty and administration sincerely hope that you will choose to have your child attend school on Holy Thursday, rather than begin your Easter Vacation early. Holy Thursday is a very important day in the Church year and always a minimum day.

**Mission Day:**

This event is held in May and all proceeds benefit the Ursuline Sisters and their Missionary work. Each class chooses a third world country to study in the weeks before the event. On Mission Day, students purchase a passport for \$5. They visit the booths provided by room moms and sample food, crafts and games from the different countries. There is also a morning Mass and the students get out at 12:30 PM.

**Christmas Pageant:**

The Christmas Pageant is held one evening before school lets out for break (usually the Thursday before break). The pageant is either a play with all classes participating in one musical way or another or a traditional performance by class. Either way, it is great fun. Whatever time it says to arrive, plan on arriving a few minutes before that to get a good seat. We have an amazing music program and the results are apparent during this fantastic program. It is also a great time to catch up with some of the parents you haven't seen for a while.

**First Communion and Reconciliation:**

What a beautiful experience these Second Graders go through during the year. The children and the parents participate in the preparation for these Sacraments. The preparation sessions start in September and continue throughout the school year. Reconciliation is usually in February or March and Communion a week or two after Easter. Mrs. Szczech does a wonderful job working with the parish priests and the parish religious education program at St. Rose Church. There are several important parent meetings and family events that are part of the preparation for you and your child before the special day. There will be one practice at church a few days before First Holy Communion. Each child should have at least one parent in attendance during the practice. The children are broken into three groups for their Communion Mass. The earlier you send in your paperwork, the better the chance that you will receive your chosen mass.

This is a joyous time for all! There is a Mass the week after the First Communion called the Going Forth Mass. This is also mandatory and very special. Before this mass the "official" group photograph is taken. The photo envelopes will be passed out prior to day of the Mass.

The St. Rose Second Graders have a retreat the day after First Communion to discuss the experience with their teachers, priests and friends. Check with the Room Parents to see if they need help. It is a great event and the spirit is so high and contagious that you will want to be part of the experience.

**School Liturgies:**

School liturgies are held at least once a month. Each class has a chance to plan and prepare the Mass. Dress uniforms are required (see parent handbook for requirements). Parents are welcome to attend these Masses. Masses are usually at 9:30am. The music is always wonderful.

**Illness:**

If your child is ill, call 524-9874 by 9:00am to report the absence. You only need to call the first day of the absence. If you want to pick up schoolwork for your child, please call each day and specifically ask for the homework/schoolwork to be available. You may pick up this work after 3:00 pm at the office. If your child will be absent only one day, the teachers suggest you wait until your child returns the next day to pick up his or her make-up work. It takes the teachers extra time and effort to prepare make-up work. They get a little miffed if they prepare it for you and then you don't pick it up. Also if your child is too sick to do the work, it makes more sense for the child to obtain the make-up work when he/she returns to school. Remember to write a note to the teacher when your child returns to school. Talk to the teacher if your child is out for an extended amount of time, since sometimes some of the homework assignments can be eliminated.

The office also serves as the First Aid Station. If you are called to pick up a sick child, you will find him/her in the office with a member of the office staff taking care of him or her.

**School Office:**

If your child forgets his/her lunch, you will leave it in the office and the staff will call the classroom.

There is a sign-in sheet in the office to use when you are volunteering your time during the school day. You will also be given a volunteer badge to wear while you are working. This badge is a great reminder to go back to the office and sign out and return the badge. There is also a clipboard for signing a child in or out of school at anytime other than the standard hours. (ie. Drs appts, illness )

The Diocese has specific requirements for parent volunteers who work directly with the children. Watch the Wednesday envelope for details.

If you are working on a committee or some special function, chances are that there is a box or envelope waiting for your input or withdrawal of information.

You can also purchase Scrip in the office during office hours, which are 8:00am to 4:00pm. There are no Scrip purchases on Mondays from 8:30am to noon while the Scrip Committee balances the books.

Since the office is such a busy place, it is no wonder that they close for the month of July. Vacations change year to year but your June calendar will show when the office is closed.

The office can be overwhelming when there are people stacked three deep all waiting for different things. Don't worry, once it is your turn, you will receive excellent and caring attention from one of the staff.

### **Environmental Camp:**

Our Fifth Graders attend an Environmental Camp in Occidental each Spring. The students enjoy a week of hiking and being one with nature. They may purchase sweatshirts at the camp and can wear them proudly the rest of the year. There are lots of fundraisers to defer the cost of attending camp: Cookie Dough, Magazine Subscriptions, and the school sweatshirts. You will be notified of these sales during the year. Plan on taking your dirty and happy children right home after meeting the bus. They will be so tired from having a wonderful time.

### **Big Buddies:**

Most classes have %Big Buddies+or are %Big Buddies+. The Eighth Graders are Big Buddies to Kindergarten; Seventh Graders are Big Buddies to First Grade; Sixth Graders are Big Buddies to Second Grade; Fifth Graders are Big Buddies to the Third Grade; Fourth Graders are Big Buddies to the Preschool. The two classes combine for some projects during the year as well as for some of the parties. Every class has different activities for their buddies.

The teachers and principal ask that you not purchase gifts for your child to give to their buddy, as it causes hurt feelings for those who do not receive gifts. Also, they want their students to learn the value of offering time and attention, rather than material gifts.

### **Back to School Night:**

Not the same as the back to school dinner - - this is a night for the parents (no children) to meet with the teachers. If you have multiple children, plan on splitting up to meet with each teacher. (There is a separate night for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.) There is time for each parent to go to two classrooms. You may also go to the library, science lab or meet the music teacher during this time. Take notes and be prepared to sit in your child's seat. Ask any questions you may have since there are probably at least ten other parents that would like to ask the same question. This evening is usually held early in September and is a NO HOMEWORK night, which makes life a bit easier for every one.

### **Student Service Hours:**

There is a service component for all grades at St. Rose. However, starting in Sixth Grade, students are expected to perform at least ten Service Hours. Children have earned these hours by participating as junior counselors at Vacation Bible School (June most years at the School), altar serving, serving dinners at the Parish Festival BBQ. Other opportunities are presented during class time.

### **Earthquake Supplies:**

During the first week of school you will be asked to send in Earthquake supplies for your child. These personalized supplies are supplements to the "official" supplies stored in the classroom and in the school. Plan on having a can of juice (no soda, no juice bags or boxes), a snack (goldfish, granola barō ), a note from Mom and Dad, game or book. All of these things need to

go into the one-gallon baggie. This bag gets returned to you the last day of school. Please do the Room Parents and teachers a favor and send the new bags in ASAP in the Fall .

### **Student Council:**

Elections for officers are held in May for the following year. There are specific criteria students in Grades 6 . 8 must meet in order to be allowed to run for office. Each class (4-8) does select one boy and one girl to serve as Class Representatives on the Student Council. The classroom representative election is held at the beginning of the school year so there is still an opportunity for a new child to be on Student Council.

Special Events hosted by Student Council include: Pajama Day, Spirit Week, Water Day, and other activities which vary year to year.

### **Other Leadership Opportunities:**

The faculty and administration strive to help every student feel connected at school. There are other leadership opportunities for junior high students such as newspaper editors, yearbook, and event staff. There are also a number of important jobs for students. So, don't fear, there are many ways your children can learn to be good leaders without having the risk running for an elected office.

### **Class Parties:**

Throughout the year the Room Parents host parties or provide treats to the children. Most holidays are celebrated in some special way. However, the faculty and principal feel it is important to keep the spirit of Advent and Lent by not celebrating Christmas and Easter early. You can ask your Room Parents if they need any help. Most classes appreciate donations of cups, napkins, cookies and juice. Talk to the Room Parent Coordinator if you wish to help! It is fun to sneak a peek at our children when they have these special celebrations!

### **Birthdays:**

You can celebrate your child's birthday by sending in a treat to the classroom. **Please coordinate this celebration with your child's teacher to make sure that there aren't too many treats on the same day.** Most classrooms celebrate summer birthdays at the end of the school year. You may only bring in party invitations if ALL students or ALL boys or ALL girls are invited to the party. If you are only inviting a certain number of students, you should use your directory to get the addresses of these children and mail the invitations to their homes. There are on average, 40 children in each class. You may want to prepare your child for the fact that they will not be invited to every party.

### **Walk-a-Thon:**

The Parent Association sponsors a Walk-a-Thon each year that is great fun and a lucrative fundraiser. It takes place on a regular school day on the Cardinal Newman Track which is adjacent to our school. It is an exciting afternoon of exercise, music, games, and prizes. Since this is a newer event, it will continue to evolve, so stay tuned to your Wednesday envelope for more information.

**Dress Uniform:**

Dress uniform is mandatory for liturgies, school photos and other special celebrations. Please note the Wednesday envelope for notification of dress uniform days.

Girls, Grades K-3, must wear their uniform jumper, white uniform blouse and their school sweatshirts. Girls, Grades 4-8, must wear their skirt, white polo shirt and school sweatshirts. Boys must wear their blue long pants, white polo shirt, and school sweatshirts. Boys in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade must wear dress shirts and ties.

**School Pictures and Yearbooks:**

School pictures are taken during the first month of school. Retakes are available. Candid photos are taken throughout the year and appear in the yearbook. The cost of the Yearbook is paid during registration, so that every student gets one. Yearbooks are passed out the last week of school and the children have fun getting autographs.

**Open House:**

This event is held at the end of January or the beginning of February during Catholic Schoolsq Week. Children are allowed, and encouraged, to attend. It is a great time to see what your children have done this year and to see what they will be doing next year. This is also a No Homework night. No matter what grade your children are in, go see the First Grade town. It is very cute! The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade visual autobiographies are also a treasured tradition.

**Free Dress Days:**

Make sure that you read the handbook for dress code on free dress days. I finally started keeping a nice (non white) T-shirt and an extra sweatshirt in the car just in case I missed a free dress day. The kids are devastated when they are dressed in uniform on a free dress day. Free Dress items should be clean and neat. No tank tops or sandals. There are a few themed free dress days, ie. Hawaiian Day, Western Day, Pajama Day, Spirit Day. More information will come to you in the (you guessed it) Wednesday envelope.

There are also a number of \$1 Free Dress Days. On these days, the students can wear free dress, but pay a dollar for the privilege. Each \$1 Free Dress Day benefits a particular charity such as cancer research or disaster relief. These days remind our children of how blessed we are and how important it is to support those who are less fortunate.

**The Traffic Circle:**

Do not, under any circumstances, park in the circle during drop off or pick up times and leave your car unattended. You can park in the circle when you need to drop off or pick up something from the classroom or office during the school day but NOT during the hours of 7:50 to 8:30am and 2:30 to 3:15pm. Consider the circle a loading and unloading zone and you will be ok!

**Drop Off and Pick Up:**

This process is probably one of the most intimidating the first week of school. Once you get into your routine, it is easy. Parents are encouraged to let their children walk onto the blacktop without parental help after the first day of school. If your child is younger you will probably

want to park and walk your child to the schoolyard. Mrs. Aymar, the school counselor, greets the children as they arrive. This is one incredible woman who knows all the children's names in a matter of days.

You can drive through the circle and drop off there. I suggest that you try it once before school starts. Timing is everything in the circle. Do not drop off your child before **"the tree"**. Wait until you are really in the circle and the car in front of you has stopped. Have your child exit and step away from the curb. Your child should have his or her backpack ready to go when you stop. Quick kisses are allowed. Do not dilly dally at the circle or things can get ugly, especially close to bell time. Do not pull out of the line, **wait** for the car in front of you to leave and then follow it out of the circle. This sounds a lot more complicated than it really is, I promise!

Pick up time is a wonderful time to chat with other parents. If you have younger children, it is also a great time for them to get to know one another. The Scrip table is open 2:30-3:15pm. So, if you arrive at school early, shopping opportunities are available. Park anywhere there is space (except the circle) but realize that if you park closest to the Cardinal Newman track fence, you will have to wait for the "pickup line" to leave before you can back your car out of the spot.

The Fifth through Eighth graders gather at the tree and their parents line up in the left hand side of the traffic. Grades K-Four will wait by the MPB and their parents will line up in the right side of traffic. The right side of traffic will go through the circle. Mrs. Ryan will page the teachers to send your child to your car in the circle. The older children must be attentive to the cars coming their way. This is confusing and I suggest that you have your Buddy take you to the parking lot and give you the %coop+. The system does work if we all remember to pay attention. Some smart parents wait until 3:00 or 3:05 to pick up their children. There is usually not line or waiting by that time.

The principal asks that you not use your cell phone while in the pick-up lines as it is important to stay alert for the safety of our children.

If your child is not attending the YMCA's Extended Care program, you should pick your child up by 3:15 pm. (School is out at 2:50). However there is teacher supervision provided until 3:20 pm as a courtesy to parents who may be a few moments late. Children may not attend the Y's program unless they have been pre-registered. Parents who do not pick up their children regularly by 3:20 pm will be required to register for YMCA care.

There is a homework club in the chapel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays that is open until 3:30 pm. Students attending homework club must be picked up promptly by 3:30 pm.

Please do not leave your car unattended in the lane adjacent to the faculty parking lot, where it will block a teacher's car. Teachers generally don't leave school until 3:30 but occasionally they may have an appointment. If they can't leave because you have blocked their car, they get upset! (Wow, teachers are human too!)

### **Service Hours:**

When you registered for St. Rose, you agreed to provide a minimum of 25 service hours per school year. This may sound like a lot but it really isn't. Even busy (aren't we all?) families find it easy to meet this requirement. Make sure you attend the Hospitality Day the first day of school and you will be able to see what opportunities await you to complete your service hours.

If the idea of this commitment is scary, start with the St. Rose Parish Festival in September. The Parish Festival provides financial support for the parish subsidy to the school, so participation from school parents is extremely important. The school administration strongly encourages every family to give some service to the festival. You can earn double hours for setting up the festival, an hour for baking a cake, triple time for cleaning up. With a little help, you can meet your entire commitment in one weekend. Don't stop once you have met your commitment. We are given a unique opportunity to be a part of our children's school lives. There are events during the year that you can volunteer for service. Don't wait to be approached. Find a need and fill it! Talk to Room Parents, join a committee, help at the Annual Event, work yard duty. The Scrip Table always needs help! Sunshine Committee provides meals for school families during life altering events (ie. Major illnesses, births etc.); you can receive 2.5 hours for cooking and delivering a meal to a family.

All new families are asked to donate five hours to the Annual Event. It will be fun and this is a great time to meet more families. There is classroom work available in the younger grades and some teachers need help correcting papers or putting together special assignments. The Afterschool Players always need help with their drama productions. Your first year is the hardest as you determine how you want to spend your time. Try different groups and find your niche. You will report your hours on the Service Hour Time Card which you submit to the office three times during the school year or when you complete your 25 hours. Replacement Cards are available in the office if needed. **It is your responsibility to report your service hours to the school office by using the card provided. They can't possibly know of your volunteer service unless you tell them!**

### **Uniform:**

There is an annual uniform sale during the summer here in Santa Rosa. You will be notified of the time and date. You can also shop at the Dennis Uniform shop in San Francisco or on their website, [www.dennisuniform.com](http://www.dennisuniform.com). The St. Rose Code is #O3ESTR. You can purchase parts of the girls and boys uniform from independent vendors.

**Polo Shirts:** The school sells two kinds of white polo shirts with the St. Rose logo. One type is 100% cotton and the other is a cotton/polyester blend. Try to have your child try these on before ordering, as the sizing is very different between these two types of polos.

White Polo shirts can be cotton or pique and as long as they don't have any other logo, they can be purchased anywhere. Target, Sears, Mervyns, Lands End, JC Penney, Kmart, and Macy's are some of the places to look for the white polo shirts.

**Shorts:** Navy twill shorts should be at fingertip length for girls. Boys shorts should not be longer than the bottom of their knees. Most of the vendors carry these shorts as well.

**Pants:** Navy corduroy pants (with a little bit of style) can be tricky to find for girls. Old Navy sometimes stocks them as well as Limited too. The J C Penney catalog, Dennis Uniform and Land's End are sure bets. Boys can buy their cords anywhere. You can also buy navy twill pants for both girls and boys. No cargo pockets though.

**Jumpers, Skirts and Blouses:** Girls must purchase their plaid jumpers, skirts and midi blouses through Dennis Uniform. Check the measurements in their brochure or website as the sizes are not true to size. Go cheap with Kindergarten since they use lots of paints, markers and their snacks always seem to appear on their shirts. There are two types of white blouses for the jumpers; one buttons all the way down the front and the other is a middy type blouse. Both blouses have the sailor collars. The middie type blouse is rather straight and difficult for the younger children to put on and take off. Try them at the uniform sale before you purchase that style. Girls in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade can also wear navy blue skirts, but not on dress uniform days.

**Skirts:** When your child moves into fourth grade and moves from a jumper to a skirt, you can take the bib off the jumper to make it a skirt.

**Sweatshirts:** Sweatshirts are sold through the school as a fundraiser for Fifth Grade's Environmental Camp. These sweatshirts run small (or not) so make sure you try on some before you order them. Try on some of the other children's sweatshirts before you order (or go to lost and found and try one on there). I suggest two sweatshirts as there always seems to be one lost, in the student's desk, or in the laundry. You may want to wash these sweatshirts inside out as they seem to pill.

K through 6<sup>th</sup> graders wear navy blue sweatshirts. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders wear burgundy. Hooded sweatshirts are now available and seem to be preferred by many students, especially the older ones. In fall of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders have the privilege of designing a graduation sweatshirt that they may choose to wear instead of the burgundy one.

**Bike Shorts:** Girls can wear navy or white bike shorts under their skirts/jumpers. These can be found at any of the stores above.

**Shoes:** Tennis shoes are acceptable as well as most shoes that have a back. No sandals, flip-flops, boots or clogs.

**LABEL every piece of your child's uniform.** Become familiar with the lost and found. If you lose something, look immediately as the lost and found is emptied out at the end of each month. The school has an on-going fundraiser **Labels Labels** where you buy personalized labels to attach to your child's items. Check in the office for more information.

**Used Uniforms:**

Used uniforms will be available on the first day of school during Hospitality Day in the Multi Purpose Building from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Used uniforms will be available at the school without charge. We are asking parents when donating uniforms to make sure they are clean and in excellent condition. Worn and stained items should either be sent to a charity or thrown out.

Also, check at the yard sale during the Parish Festival. Some uniform pieces make their way to that sale too!

**Lost and Found:**

St. Rose has a great record for getting lost items back to their owners **if** the item is clearly labeled with the student's name. Please label all uniform items, **especially the school sweatshirt, which is the item that gets misplaced most often.** Lunch boxes and backpacks should also be clearly marked. I use report cards/progress report time as a great time to check all the labels to make sure that they have not been removed or become faded. If there are multiple families with the same last name as yours, put the first initial and grade of that child on the label too.

The Fifth grade teacher is in charge of Lost and Found. She goes through the items several times a week. Items that are labeled with the student's name are returned to the proper classroom. Unlabeled items stay on the cart for one month. Monthly, the cart is brought to the front of the school at dismissal time, to encourage people to check for lost items. Unclaimed items are sent to Goodwill.

If your child is wearing a used uniform item, please be sure the former owner's name is removed and that the item is labeled with your child's name and grade on it.

**After School Clubs:**

There are Girl Scouts/Brownies/Daisies and Tiger Cubs/Boy Scouts troops connected with the school. There is an art class that is offered after school as well as the drama program. Sports programs are available according to grade.

**After School Players:**

Each spring the St. Rose Afterschool Players begin production on a new play. (There is also a mini drama production for the younger students each fall.) More recent offerings have been; Willie Wonka, Alice in Wonderland, Bye Bye Birdie, Pollyanna, Music Man, Hello Dolly and The King and I. These productions are a great deal of fun. We have a professional director and assorted volunteers producing the plays. Rehearsals are held once per week until the week before the show and then the rehearsals are almost daily. There are usually three performances during the weekend for the general public. Ticket notification will be given to you in the Wednesday envelope. If your child is older and would like to audition for a lead role, you should watch for the audition notifications. Everyone can be a part of the production!

### **Dad's Club:**

The Dad's Club is a wonderful organization that raises funds for the school. OK, that's not all they do. The Dad's Club meets for wonderful dinners and great conversation the first Monday of each month. Watch the Wednesday envelope for the flyer and signups for the dinner. Dinner is \$10-\$12 in advance and \$12-\$15 at the door. The first dinner is free to all new Dads so make sure you attend. Perhaps your buddy can go with you the first time? There are raffles held during the dinners so be prepared.

The Dad's Club usually sponsors some type of fundraiser. With their earnings, they generously share their funds with the kids! In the past, the Dad's Club has purchased tables for the multipurpose building, finished our covered eating area, purchased basketball hoops and poles, they paid for renovations to the bathrooms and playing fields. AND SO MUCH MORE!!!! Come help support this great organization.

### **Field Trips:**

Students will receive permission slips for field trips from their teacher. Students are not allowed to participate in the field trip if this slip is not returned to the school in a timely fashion. Parents may be able to chaperone and/or drive on the field trip. The teacher will let you know if volunteers are needed. All drivers must show proof of insurance and a copy of their drivers license. Vehicles are checked prior to leaving the school grounds. More information will come home with the permission slips.

### **Parish Festival and Yard Sale:**

The St. Rose Parish Festival is held the third weekend of every September. This is a great time to get together with school and parish families. The festival is held at the Parish Hall and Grounds. There are lots and lots of fun service hours to be had at the festival.

We ask that each school family bring a **homemade** cakes to the festival. Some cakes are used for the Ladies Guild cakewalk and some are served at the dinner. There is also a Dad/Child Cake Decorating contest. You receive one service hour for each of the cakes you bring to the festival.

There is a huge yard sale at the side of the old school on the parish grounds. There are some great deals plus this is a great place to donate those things you no longer have a use for in your home.

The BBQ is wonderful and you shouldn't miss it. If you can't stay to eat, get a plate to go! As was written earlier, please support this fundraiser. It is an integral part of the parish finance to the school and parish/school culture.

### **Fund Raisers**

There are numerous small fundraisers throughout the year which support such things as Environmental Camp and the Preschool Relocation Project. Participation in these fundraisers is optional but very appreciated.

### **Advisory Council:**

The Advisory Council is a group of parents who help advise the pastor and principal on school policy, finance, and long-term planning. They meet on the Third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. The minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the school office. Parents are invited to attend but do check the agenda to make sure that the meeting you plan on going to isn't one of the very rare closed meetings.

### **Parent's Association:**

There is a Parent's Association and guess what, you already belong to it! All St. Rose parents are part of this group. There are monthly meetings usually held the first Tuesday of the month in the school chapel. Everyone is welcome (really!) to these meetings.

This is the fundraising, welcoming, and activity source of a lot of things at school. The Parent Association contributes \$77,000 to the school's operating budget annually, which helps to keep everyone's tuition lower. Because they are such a talented, creative, and hardworking group, they are often able to raise substantial funds over and above this amount. These extra funds have provided many big ticket items that our children enjoy such as new computers, playground equipment, Smartboards, and much more. Along with fundraising The Parent Club sponsors many fun activities for students and school families.

Please make an effort to attend a meeting. They are fun, informative, and provide an opportunity to give input on many areas of school life. The principal always attends and often uses the meetings to obtain parent feedback. Please make a special effort to support your Parent Association's officers' efforts. Their hard work benefits us all.

***We challenge you to attend one monthly meeting!***

### **Auction:**

The Annual Event collects items for the Silent and Live Auctions throughout the year. If you have any items or services that can be sold, please let the Auction committee know about them so that they can advertise your donation before the auction.

### **School Directory:**

This is a must have item! You will be given the school directory as soon as it is published (usually in September). This book comes in handy for calling classmates for homework assignments or for party invitations. Make sure you keep the office notified of any changes to your address or phone numbers. Corrections to the School Directory later in the year are published and sent home in the Wednesday Envelope. **The school administration asks that you not share the directory with people outside the school community. Parents may opt out of having their phone number or address in the directory.**

### **Hot Lunch:**

The school contracts with an outside provider for lunch service for 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and most Tuesdays. There will also be a Pizza Lunch provided through the Parent Association on most Thursdays. Lunches are ordered in advance and cost \$3.50 each. The two providers have separate order forms and require separate payments. All ordering is handled through the Wednesday envelope. You can pick

and choose which lunches your child wants, or skip the hot lunch program entirely. Students who have not ordered hot lunch bring a lunch from home. There are service hours available for parents who are able to help with hot lunch.

**Sports:**

From grades five to eight, you can participate in Volleyball and Basketball. Most years we have participated in a track meet, which is held in May and is for all grades.

**Mascot and School Colors:**

Our school colors are Blue and Gold and our mascot is the Screaming Eagle.

**Family Fun Nights:**

The St. Rose Parents Association sponsors a few evening activities during the year. These events are for the entire family (bring Aunties and Grandparents too!) They may include such things as Family Fun Bingo Night or Movie Night.

The Parents Association is always looking for suggestions for these evenings. Please let them know your thoughts and ideas by attending a meeting or by sending in a note through the office.

**Scrip:**

You will receive lots and lots of information about Scrip. The best advice is to be consistent in your purchases. The Scrip tables are open daily. The office also sells Scrip. You will receive order forms and can place an order and have it ready for pickup. If you need to purchase a large amount of Scrip (ie. \$500 Home Depot), please use the preorder so that you aren't disappointed when you pick up your purchase. You will receive a monthly statement to make sure that you are on track with your purchases. Buy a coupon holder and keep the scrip in it alphabetized so that you always know what you have on hand. If you see it, you will use it! Encourage friends and family to place orders through you for gift certificates at Christmas. They get the convenience of all the shops being available at one time and you get the Scrip credit. Talk to your buddy family to see how they make their Scrip obligation.

Remember, you can earn tuition credits by continuing to buy Scrip once you've completed your commitment. You can also opt to buy-out of the Scrip Program. (See your tuition contract.)

**Building Tour:**

If your child has not yet visited the school, have your Buddy family meet you at school and take you for a building tour. There are girls and boys bathrooms located outside, across from the second grade classroom. There are water fountains outside the girls bathroom. First Grade has their own bathroom for use during class time.

The portables outside the school are used for extra math classes, YMCA Extended Care, the Science Lab and Mrs. Aymar's office. (The school counselor)

**Year End Teacher Gifts:**

You will find that some classroom Room Parents will collect funds for a collective gift. Your participation is optional. The Room Parents may also have the students help in making a year-end gift for the teacher or teachers.

**Zero to Hero Day:**

The Kindergarteners count the number of days that they have been in school. There is a very special celebration in their classroom for the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Zero the Hero comes by for a sneaky visit every tenth school day (ends with zero).

**Room Parents:**

If you are interested in becoming a Room Parent, please contact the Room Parent Coordinator, Laura Bundesen. Parents volunteer for these positions in May for the following school year but you can still participate by calling the Coordinator.

**Eighth Grade:**

This is your child's final year before going off well prepared to high school. Although graduates attend different high schools the majority tend to enroll in Cardinal Newman and Ursuline High Schools. St. Rose is very supportive, however, to families who make an alternate choice. In October all the 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a Preview Day at Newman or Ursuline. If your child is not planning to attend either of those schools, he or she is still welcome at Preview Day, but you may want to take the opportunity to visit an alternate high school.

Many 8<sup>th</sup> graders are anxious to move on to high school in the beginning of the year. As graduation gets closer, nostalgia sets in with many of them and they are reluctant to say goodbye to the people and things that have been so familiar to them.

Graduation is a real celebration. There is a class trip to Great America, a retreat, a luncheon for graduates and their parents, and the Graduation Mass that is held on the Sunday afternoon before school gets out.

As a St. Rose alumni, your children will always be valued members of the St. Rose family and will be encouraged to come back to visit to share their accomplishments.

**Your homework:**

Hopefully this guide has helped make your transition to St. Rose a bit easier. Your homework is to help make the transition even easier for the next group of new families. Jot down your thoughts about things that weren't covered in this guidebook or were covered inaccurately. Send that list into the office. Your comments will help make this survival guide even more useful to those families joining us next year.

**THANK YOU and WELCOME To St. Rose School!**