



**Sacred Heart
Catholic School**



New Family Packet Sacred Heart Catholic School

On behalf of the SHCS community, I would like to welcome you to our school. I am hopeful that this packet will help answer some of the questions you have before the school year starts in September.

--Karen Bursey, Principal

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Mission Statement: Sacred Heart Catholic School is committed to instilling high moral standards rooted in Catholic teachings. We are dedicated to educating the whole child through an integrated C-STEM curriculum. In collaboration with our families, parish, and local community, we maximize individual potential to ensure students are prepared to meet the challenges in the world as disciples of Jesus. Welcome to Sacred Heart!

I, along with all members of SAC, am excited your family has chosen Sacred Heart Catholic School. We certainly understand the importance of the decision you made as our children's education, support, safety, and experiences are paramount. We look forward to you seeing firsthand how engaged and supportive the teaching staff is and how much they ensure each child is prepared with the values, knowledge, and skills to excel beyond the classroom. Your children will enjoy the additional experiences through the C-STEM program (unique to Sacred Heart!) and will have the opportunities to participate in programs like Accelerated Reader, Honors classes, band, science fairs, karate, and so much more! For my family, too, it was important to find a school that will teach our children to be lifelong disciples of Jesus through learning how and why to pray, the Sacraments, and weekly Mass attendance.

I think we can all agree that the last 18 months have been a rollercoaster with the pandemic yet everyone at Sacred Heart went above and beyond to ensure steps were taken for the safety, health, and emotional stability of the children. At a moment's notice their preparedness in pivoting with the changes demonstrated how well structured and organized the management of the school was and is. They didn't skip a beat when learning went virtual, even if just temporarily, and they understood the value in investing in the technology and equipment necessary to support that. My husband and I found that very comforting and amazingly, through all of it, our two children did not miss a day of school and felt so blessed to be able to engage with their friends in-person daily!

The culture and success of Sacred Heart is based on the wonderful family community. The connectivity of the families through the various events and volunteer opportunities is what really makes the school feel like a home. And we certainly know the challenges of balancing schedules, which is why there is a variety of ways to jump in and participate depending on what works best for your family. We have a great Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) that is always welcoming new members ready to bring unique talents, Fall Fun Fest is just around the corner on September 18th, there are delicious Fish Fry dinners during Lent, sporting events throughout the year that are always looking for coaches or just fans, chaperoning a field trip, serving donuts on Sunday morning, or even just volunteering to wash the kitchen towels. I have participated in most of these and while admittedly it takes some effort to work it into the schedule, I am always so grateful for the chance to help ensure the school continues to succeed and love the chance getting to connect with other families. You will see in the weekly newsletters emailed by Ms. Burse the various opportunities for engagement and they have made it really easy with online sign-ups. Watch within those newsletters, too, for announcements and wonderful stories of what's happening within the school.

We are excited for another school year to begin. If you ever have any questions feel free to email or call me: Rebecca Lahr, 763-607-0716, beckini@hotmail.com.

God bless,
Rebecca Lahr, School Advisory Committee (SAC)

*“Let all that you do be done in Love”
1 Corinthians 16:14*

Letter from Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) at Sacred Heart Catholic School:

Who we are:

We are parents of children who attend Sacred Heart Catholic School. We come together to plan important fundraisers, activities, and special events for our teachers and students and we all agree that keeping faith and fun at the forefront of all activities is what is most important!

We need you:

Whether it's monthly meetings, volunteering for specific events, or donations, we are always welcome to new ideas, faces, and building our community.

Join us:

We meet the *first Tuesday of every month from 6:30-7:30*, location will be announced in the weekly school newsletter. We all have busy lives, so we are sensitive of time and follow an agenda. No need to be present at every meeting, just let us know you want to join us. We will follow up with email/notes to keep you posted on future happenings.

Events we help plan:

- Marathon
- Fall Conferences/Spring Conferences
- Santa's Workshop
- Catholic Schools Week - Teacher's Breakfast and Student Treat
- Teacher Appreciation
- Teacher/Staff End of Year Party
- All School Assemblies
- Hospitality

Keep an eye on weekly updates under "PTC News" in the RAM newsletter.

Please reach out to any one of us and we will be happy to answer questions or help you find the answers! We are all parents in this together.

Sincerely,
Katie Gooley
Parent Teacher Committee
ktgooley@gmail.com

Common Questions and Answers for New Parents from Other Parents

Please note, these answers are from current parents to new parents. Please refer to the Student Handbook, classroom teacher, Ms. Bursey, or the newsletter that is published on Mondays.

1. **How do I leave a message for a student during the school day?** Parents may call the school office (763-537-1329) and leave a message with the office staff. Your message will then be delivered to your child when appropriate.
2. **How does the lunch process work?** We used Lancer Catering for our lunches. All lunches must be pre-ordered one week in advance using a website called Boonli. The new menu goes “live” the 15th of the month. (Example: September menu will go live on August 15th or sooner. Online lunch ordering is available at: <https://sacredheart.boonli.com>
If your child qualifies for Free or Reduced Price Lunch Benefits, please obtain an application from our school website under “Registration” paperwork, or contact our school office at 763-537-1329 for more information. (The application will be available in August when MDE releases the form).
3. **What do I do if my child is sick?** If your child is ill and cannot attend school, including fever or vomiting in the last 24 hours, parents should call or email the school office (sbowback@sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org), as early as possible on the day your child is absent. If parents do not contact us by 8:00 a.m., we will contact you.
4. **Where do I find the Parent/Student Handbook?** Our handbook is located under the Admissions tab on our website.
5. **How many uniforms should I buy?** The number of uniforms you purchase depends on a number of factors. The younger children tend to be harder on their clothes (boys especially). The girls have the option of wearing pants, a jumper, or skort. We recommend the red logo shirt vs. the white logo shirt for easier cleaning. The banded bottom logo shirt is recommended (mostly for the younger students) so students do not have to tuck in their shirt. We suggest 2 polar-tec pullovers or sweatshirts for the colder months.
6. **Where do I buy uniforms?** Uniform logo items may be purchased through Donald’s Uniform and may be ordered online at Donaldsuniform.com. If the school code, SacredHeartSTS, is used, the order will be shipped to the school at no cost. See the school website for more information.
7. **Can I purchase used school uniforms?** We have two used uniform sales each year: August and January. Parents are able to drop off gently used uniforms throughout the year. We accept uniform pants/shorts, logo shirts, jumper/skorts, spirit wear. We do not accept marathon t-shirts.
8. **How do the Drop-off and Pick-up Car Lines work?** Safety is a priority at SHCS. Please follow the procedures listed below:

K -8th grade Parent Drop off

Students may NOT be dropped off before 7:15 a.m. or parents will be responsible for monitoring your child before 7:15 a.m. Parents may park on 40 ½ Ave. N. and students may walk to the front doors of school between 7:15-7:25 a.m. Staff will be present to supervise students beginning at 7:15 a.m. Parents may also drop students off behind the school between 7:15-7:25 a.m. and enter the main parish/school entrance (door 8).

K-8 grade Parent Pick Up

Please park in the lot behind the school. Dismissal for car riders is at 2:05 pm. Students will wait inside our main entrance. Please park your car and walk up the entrance doors. Your child will wait by the doors with staff until you escort your child to the car. If your child needs to leave before 2:05 p.m., please come into the school office to sign him or her out of school. Your child must be picked up by 2:20 pm (school is out at 2:05 pm). If your child is not picked up by 2:20 pm they will be sent to Kids Club and you will be charged the Kids Club fee.

Arrival and Dismissal for Preschool:

Parents, please enter door #8 located behind the school and walk your child to the PreK classroom. Check in/out clipboards are located in the classroom.

- 9. What is the Marathon? Saturday, October 2nd.** This fundraiser is the only mandatory fundraiser for SHCS and its success is a tremendous example of how SHCS families and staff pull together to accomplish our goals. The Marathon is also a celebration and a chance for people to come together. We have fun walking running or biking and a picnic to celebrate. All funds remain here at Sacred Heart and they are used to offset the rising costs of providing a quality education. So if you are asked, “Where does the money go?” ***It truly goes to support every part of our mission.***

- 10. What is the Gala? February 11th.** You won’t want to miss this! The Gala is an annual event that our church and school community gather together to celebrate our school, reflect on our successes and renew our commitment to Catholic education. The night starts with a happy hour, then on to an entertaining evening full of fun. Dinner, Drinks, Silent and Live Auctions; all benefitting the school.

- 11. How often and when do the children go to Mass?** The students attend and participate in Mass every Friday at 8:00 a.m. In addition, there will be Holy Day Masses, Stations of the Cross and prayer services throughout the year. Remember, students are required to wear the SHCS uniform shirt.

- 12. How do I find answers?** Your first resource should be the Parent/Student Handbook. If you have any additional questions, you can call the school office, your child’s teacher, or Ms. Burse. Please do not hesitate to call us.

13. **How do I volunteer?** You will have ample opportunities to volunteer. One of the hallmark Catholic School traditions is that of sharing your time, talent, and treasure within your child's school community/family. Sacred Heart Catholic School vision and future rests in a very active and engaged school community. There are many ways to give of your time, talent, and treasure. Volunteer opportunities are posted on the sign-up tab at the bottom of our home page. Opportunities will be posted each month on SignUp, in our newsletter and through the classroom teachers. We encourage all families to volunteer at least 20 hours per family. All volunteers are required to have the Essential 3: Background check, Code of Conduct and attend a Virtus session.
14. **May I visit?** YES! Guests may eat lunch with students any day. Don't forget to sign in at the school office.
15. **Where should I enter the school during the school day?** If you are volunteering your time, dropping something off or visiting during the school day, please park behind the school and enter door 8. We require you to check in or drop off any items for your student in the school office. We will deliver items to your student for you.
16. **School Hours?** Students start arriving between 7:15-7:25 a.m. School begins at 7:30 am. Students are dismissed at 2:05 pm. Bus transportation information will be available at Back to School Night. If your child will be bussed to and from a daycare, make sure we have the address.

TOP 10 Tips for New Parents

1. Read the Monday newsletter; it is emailed every Monday morning. This is your best source of information.
2. Attend Curriculum Night - September 23rd for PreK -4th grade and September 28th for grades 5-8. This is a parent only event with an emphasis on curriculum and new happenings this school year.
3. Attend conferences with your child's teachers. They are on October 18-19th and again, March 31.
4. Volunteer for an event as a way to meet people and have fun. There is an activity for everyone and a chance for everyone to get involved.
5. Come to the Annual Gala. This is SHCS' largest fundraiser of the year. We have other fundraisers such as Marathon, Christmas wreaths and plant sale, but the Gala is our top event. It's a fun time and worth attending.
6. Attend school Masses. These are typically on Friday at 8:00 a.m. The kids love to see you and it is so much fun to see the little ones shine with confidence as they take on leadership roles!
7. Join us for our Marathon on Saturday, Oct. 2nd at Sanborn Park. This is a great family event and a great way to meet parents.
8. Order spirit wear from Educational Outfitters in St. Louis Park. Our items are listed on their website under our school name. Students may wear spirit wear on the designated day each week.

What will happen and what you can plan for in September.....

September 1st, 12:00-6:00 p.m. – Back to School Night – Parents will schedule a 15 minute appointment with your child’s teacher(s) for PreK-5th grade and the homeroom teachers for grades 6-8. Students and parents will visit the classroom, meet the teacher, bring in school supplies, etc. and meet new friends!

Then join us for the Back to School Picnic right here at Sacred Heart. Our PTC Committee is sponsoring this event from 4:00-7:00 pm. on the Hubbard Ave. parking lot. We will have a hot dogs, chips, dessert and beverages. Students will see our newly painted stencils on the playground for recess.

September 18 – Parish Fun Fest. Join us for a day of fun for children and adults.

September 20---School Picture Day. Students may be out of uniform for this day.

September 23 – SHCS Curriculum Night for Pre-K through 4th Grade.

September 28 -SHCS Curriculum Night for grades 5 - 8. Parents will meet with classroom teachers to learn about curriculum, classroom expectations and procedures.

We are excited to have your family at Sacred Heart Catholic School. Please email me or call the school office with questions. I will continue to communicate over the summer.

Sincerely,

Karen Bursey
Principal

kbursey@sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org

763-285-6255