

ST. PETER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

NEW PARENT PACKET – 2018

Dear parents,

Welcome to St. Peter Lutheran School! We are excited to have you join our family! We understand that starting at a new school can be intimidating – you undoubtedly have many questions about how our school runs, the expectations, and involvement in our school. To better answer your questions, we wanted to take the opportunity to present to you a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) from new parents to help ease your transition.

Throughout the year, you will likely think of many more questions. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the school office, the PTL, or your child’s teacher – we are all here to help you in any way we can.

So, without further ado, here is the list of new parent FAQ, otherwise known as “Everything You Wanted to Know about Our School, but Didn’t Know to Ask.”

Is there some kind of parent handbook for me to read?

Yes! The handbook is too long to print and distribute to each family, so we make it available for download on our webpage or our app. Our webpage can be found at www.splodischool.org

You said you have an app? Where do I find that?

Our app is free and available from your app store. Type in St. Peter Lodi and hit “search” - you should find it easily. Our app is a great one-stop-shopping opportunity for all things school related. You can find events, newsletters, dress code, and other essential things. It also has push notifications for event reminders, so make sure to allow for notifications!

What about communication? How else do I know what’s going on in the school?

Every teacher has a weekly newsletter. Depending on the class, these are sometimes distributed via hard-copy, including the school newsletter. All newsletters, however, are available online in mobile-friendly formats. You can find links on our app, our webpage, or from teacher e-mails.

When is chapel, and can I attend?

All parents are encouraged to attend chapel! Regular chapels are every Wednesday at 8:30 in our church sanctuary. There are three exceptions: The first day of school, Good Friday, and the last day of school. On those days, chapel is at 9:00 am. The second Wednesday of each new quarter is also Awards Chapel where we hand out academic awards for students in each grade. Finally, each class is required to lead two chapels every school year.

What are PIP hours and how do I log them?

PIP hours stand for Parent Involvement Program. Each family is required to volunteer 30 hours of service (15 for a single-parent family) each year. Recording hours is on the honor system. In other words, you are responsible for logging your own hours. To log your hours, there is a PIP binder in the school office where you can record your hours. Please try to do so regularly so that you don’t forget!

What kind of things can I do to earn PIP hours?

The best way is to read the school newsletter on a weekly basis – this is where you can find the most up-to-date opportunities. There are many opportunities available for families. Volunteering for recess or lunch duty, helping in the classroom, or attending fieldtrips are easy ways. We also have big events such as Trunk or Treat or our Family Fiesta that can get you several hours at once – volunteering to chair or participate in planning events is a great way to earn hours. Even making donations for Halloween candy, Christmas cookies, or auction baskets can earn you hours. One fantastic way is to attend our PTL meetings either in person or streamed online. PTL meetings get you 3 PIP ours for every meeting! We also participate in a Korean Student Exchange Program for three weeks in January. Hosting a child will cover all 30 hours! Attending overnight trips in middle school can also satisfy a large number of hours.

What is RenWeb?

You set up a RenWeb account when you enrolled. This is how you check grades, order hot lunch, and reenroll for the next school year. There is also a parent directory so you can contact other parents in your child's class.

What is FACTS?

FACTS is our tuition management company, which works in tandem with RenWeb. FACTS is how youfor pay tuition and incidental charges such as Extended School Care (ESC) or sports.

What is ESC?

ESC stands for Extended School Care. We open at 7 am and close at 6 pm every day. ESC costs \$5/hour per child. We also offer Homework club on Mondays and Wednesdays at the same costs.

How do I order hot lunch? What if my child doesn't have a lunch for the day?

Check your e-mails at the end of each month. There is a limited window in which to order hot lunch, and you must order a month in advance. Don't worry, though, we always have extra, so your child will always have something to eat. Just make sure you communicate with the office or your child's teacher if you are in need of a lunch for the day.

Other than tuition, what kind of other fees and costs are there?

The only costs that are required are the enrollment fee, tuition, and class trips for grades 6-8. All other costs are optional. We offer private music lessons, before and after school extended care, hot lunch, milk, yearbooks, and occasional other costs like t-shirts for spirit wear Fridays or school play productions.

What about school supplies?

No need to worry about school supplies! We purchase all of those for you!

What are the uniform requirements?

For specifics, please see our uniform policy available on our webpage or our app. However, there are a few things to note. All students must own at least one red logo shirt to be worn on Wednesdays and on field trips. Every Friday is spirit wear. This means that students must still wear uniform bottoms, but are allowed to wear school t-shirts such as our yearly theme verse or a shirt from one of our play productions. Students may also wear shirts from years past.

What is Two-Can Tuesday?

Once a month we have Two-Can Tuesday, but it can vary by month so check the school calendar (available on our webpage and app). On Two-Can Tuesdays, any student that brings in two canned or boxed non-perishable food items receives a free dress for the day (they do not have to wear the regular uniform). There are still dress guidelines, however, so make sure to check our dress code carefully.

What is Back to School Night? Do I need to attend?

Back to School Night this year will be on Monday, July 30. There will be two sessions where you can meet your child's teacher and learn everything you need to know about the classroom. You do not need to attend both sessions – this is for families with more than one child at the school. There's a free dinner, too, so please join us!

What are the procedures for arrival and dismissal?

Students in grades 4 – 8 are to use the main parking lot. In the afternoon, there are cones set out by the curb. If you are picking up your child, please drive through this pick-up area to get your child. Do NOT stop or park along the red curb. Students in grades K – 3 are to be dropped off and picked up off of frontage road along Lower Sacramento Rd. However, most parents in Kindergarten and First grade prefer to walk their child to class. When this is the case, please use our main parking lot. In the afternoon, however, you may greet them along frontage road. For more detailed information, please see our parent handbook available on our webpage and our app.

What kind of fundraisers do you do? Am I required to participate in any of them?

Our main fundraisers are our monthly dinner nights and our Family Fiesta in the spring. Dinner nights are optional, and vary by month. Typically you eat at one of our local establishments, and the school gets a percentage of the proceeds. The Family Fiesta (it changes names from year to year) is in the spring. Each family is required to volunteer at least 5 hours or make a \$50 donation towards an auction basket.

This might seem like a silly question, but I hear people refer to the IMC. What is that?

IMC is our school library or media center. It stands for "Interactive Media Center." Mr. Warmbier thinks it could mean "Incognito Muenster Cheese," but that's not a very popular suggestion.

What kind of events do you have during the year? Am I required to attend any of them?

There are lots of events! They are all voluntary, but highly encouraged! Check your yearly calendar for specific events and dates, but below is a summary of our big events.

Trunk or Treat: Decorate a trunk for Halloween and earn PIP hours, or just attend and get candy! Open to the community, this is a fun, safe event held the Friday before Halloween.

Journey to Christmas: This is a "living nativity" put on by our church that tells the Christmas story. There is a whole Bethlehem village in our gym, and a hosted tour around our campus where you experience live actors (and even live animals!) sharing the Christmas story. This is free and open to the community. Fun for people of all ages, we encourage you to bring your friends and neighbors!

School Christmas Program: Every year we do a full Christmas play. The lead characters are usually played by older students, but every child in the school participates in one way or another. One night only in December, and free for all!

January Open House: This is a fun event for families to experience all the amazing programs and activities our school has to offer. Bring your friends and earn PIP hours!

Academic Fair: Each class has projects on display in our gym. Another great way to show off our school to friends and families!

Family Fiesta: This is a whole-school event of fantastic proportions! This event serves as our main fundraiser for the year. Each family will get an allotted number of tickets, but extra tickets are also available for sale.

Spring Musical: This is our biggest performance of the year! Main roles are typically taken by the older students, but there are usually parts for students in all grades. Tickets are sold to cover the cost of the performance, so make sure to purchase yours early! There are two performances: one Friday night and one on Saturday. This year we will be performing *The Little Mermaid*.

Talent Show: Auditions will be a week before and anyone participating will need to attend dress rehearsal. Typically we are able to take all acts that audition, but there are never any guarantees.

Class Trips: Students in grades 6 – 8 take overnight trips. Cost vary by grade. More information will be shared when available.

Big Games Day: This is a whole-school field day on the last day of school. A free lunch is also provided. Parents are need to lead this games and serve lunch.