



Primary-Intermediate FAQs

Frequently asked questions about St. Clare Grades 1-5

How is St. Clare School different from other elementary schools?

Development of character and community are the unwritten but essential parts of St. Clare's comprehensive curriculum. Our school is focused on caring and lifelong learning and will embrace your child as an individual and guide them to excel.

How can I find out more about school policies and class information?

The St. Clare Handbook and class overviews are posted on the St. Clare website and we encourage every parent and student to read both. Back-to-School Night is a school-wide event where your child's teacher will explain his/her approach to teaching and behavior, class schedule, homework details, and expectations.

What time do classes begin and end?

Classes begin at 8:15 and end at 3:05. Tuesdays have an early dismissal at 2:05.

What is the class size?

The maximum class size is 28. Average class size is 24.

What is the dress code for St. Clare elementary school?

Our uniform policy can be found in the St. Clare School Handbook on our website.

How much homework do students have on average per night?

It varies depending on grade, but a standard expectation is approximately 15 to 30 minutes for first grade, adding a little more time each year to average at 60 to 75 minutes for fifth grade.

How can parents/guardians assist with their child's academic program and homework?

The school's philosophy, which is displayed throughout the school, articulates specifically "we collaborate with parents, the primary educators of our children." We encourage parents to partner with us in developing each child's individual potential and spirit, and we are grateful to our parent partners who generously give their time for classroom projects and field trips.*

On a daily basis, parents can:

- Check and sign homework planners
- Look over papers and newsletters that are sent home
- Encourage reading and track and sign student reading logs (including reading aloud)
- Quiz children on math facts under the teacher's direction
- Communicate with teachers regarding any challenges that may arise

How is Catholic Identity integrated within the school?

St. Clare School welcomes students of all faiths, but our mission statement is clear in identifying our school's relationship to Catholic gospel teachings and values and to the larger St. Clare parish. Religion is taught within our curriculum, all students provide service to the greater community, and we attend Mass every Thursday morning, inviting parents and parishioners to join us. Catholic values guide our behavior and interactions, and we partner with the parish for many activities and volunteer opportunities.

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What volunteer/service opportunities are there in each grade?

All students, K-8, participate in both all-school and grade-level service activities, and parents often join in. Grade-level service, determined by the teacher, is age-appropriate. We believe you are never too young to make a difference.

How will I know about the progress of my child?

Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled during the fall for every student. Teachers are always available via email and for additional meetings as necessary. Progress reports and report cards are delivered to parents every trimester. All students are assessed in reading and math three times a year using Renaissance STAR assessments, and results are shared with parents. Writing and spelling are assessed twice a year. All assessments are used to inform instruction and to identify areas where assistance may be needed for individual students.

What resources and approaches are available for exceptional learners?

The Learning Specialist Program (LSP) serves the entire school community and is designed to help each student feel and be successful at school. Approaches include universal screening and differentiated instruction to support all learners and Response to Intervention (RTI) and counseling when specific interventions are needed.

Are there special classes offered to students?

St. Clare is proud to offer many specialist classes by award winning teachers, which include Art, P.E., Music, Library, and Technology. There are also various after-school classes and activities, depending on age, including 100 Mile Walking Club, MUSE Band, Mad Science, and CYO sports. We begin keyboarding skills in kindergarten and cursive writing in third grade.

What is your discipline policy?

St. Clare aims to provide an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. Our focus is on communicating clear expectations with moral guidance and not on punishment.

What is the procedure for absences and make-up work?

Parents must notify the school and the teacher by 7:30 a.m., either by phone or e-mail, if their child will be tardy or absent from school that day. Students must be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school after an illness. After an absence, students



are responsible for asking their teachers about missed assignments.

How will my child take medication during school hours?

Medication Authorization Forms are to be completed by parents and filed with the school office. Only trained personnel administer medication to students.

How will I find out what is happening within the community?

We email a weekly newsletter, *The Dragon Post*, to keep parents up-to-date on school information and events. Teachers email regular updates to parents for their specific classroom.

*Parents are required to complete a background check and child protection training prior to volunteering with children.

Please see the St. Clare Handbook, which is available on our website, for more details.