

Middle School FAQs



Frequently asked questions about St. Clare Middle School

How is St. Clare Middle School different from other middle 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 middle school?

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

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.

What classes/activities are offered in middle school?

Our academic program includes Math (incl. accelerated Math), English Language Arts, Science, Religion, Social Studies, Art, P.E., Music, Library, and Technology. There are also various after-school classes and activities such as the 100 Mile Walking Club, MUSE Band, Drama Club, and CYO sports. We also offer many annual educational events including our art fair, talent show, science fair, speech festival, geography bee, Battle of the Books, and many other community-driven events in which students participate.

How much homework do students have on average per night?

A standard expectation is approximately two hours of homework nightly for each student.

How will I know about the progress of my child?

St. Clare uses FACTS, an online grade reporting system to communicate to parents and students as soon as grades become available. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled during the fall for every student. Teachers are always available via email and for additional meetings as necessary. 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 is assessed twice each year. All assessments are used to inform instruction and to identify areas where assistance may be needed for individual students.

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The small school with the big heart. Call 503-244-7600 for more information or to schedule a tour.



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.

How do I contact my child's teacher?

Every teacher has a contact email that can be found on our website.

Do students go to Outdoor School?

Yes, sixth grade students go to Outdoor School for the full six-day experience. Detailed information is shared with parents at a presentation a month prior to the scheduled dates.

What service and volunteer opportunities are available during Middle School years?

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. Eighth grade students participate in a minimum of 10 hours of service outside of school. Most eighth graders far exceed the requirement. Service hours may include community and/or parish activities.

What can parents/guardians do to help at home?

The school's philosophy, which is displayed throughout the school, articulates specifically "we collaborate with parents, the primary educators of our children." We actively encourage parents to partner with us in developing each child's individual potential and spirit.

What is the acceptance rate for students getting admitted to Catholic high schools?

On average, we have a 100% acceptance rate.

What is the 1-to-1 iPad Program?

Middle school families may provide their own iPad or lease an iPad from the school for their middle school child. Leasing an iPad allows families to pay a portion of the price of the iPad over three years and own the iPad upon graduation. Students can retain leased iPads during summer break. The goals of the 1-to-1 program include the following: to increase student engagement in learning, to facilitate differentiated learning, to broaden use of technology across the curriculum, to simplify organization, and to lighten backpacks as suitable digital texts become available.

Can my child bring her/his cell phone to school?

Middle school students may bring cell phones to school but must "register" them with their teacher and leave them turned off in their home room phone receptacle all day until dismissal.

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, quizzes, and tests.

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.

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.

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 provide updates on classroom-specific events.

*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.