



ST. RAPHAEL

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Preschool – Eighth Grade • Crystal, Minnesota

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763-504-9450 • www.srsmn.org

February 14, 2018

Dear St. Raphael Catholic School Families,

Great things are happening at St. Raphael Catholic School! I want to thank the many parents who have assured me of their prayers and well-wishes for a successful school year. Your “all in” mindset and support are so very appreciated! At St. Raphael Catholic School, we are proud to say that we teach the Catholic faith with fidelity to the magisterium of the Catholic Church. The Holy Spirit is answering prayers: our children continue to learn and grow in a safe and caring environment, there is a renewed sense of energy and purpose throughout our school, our very talented staff continues to improve their methods of instruction and administration, and exciting new programs are part of our growing list of after-school enrichment activities. We are laying the foundation for school growth. We recently recruited John Amann and Thomas Joseph to augment our instructional staff. John is the creator of Pursuit Academy, a Catholic faith-based curriculum designed to empower students to resist societal pressures that focus on an end goal of fortune and fame instead of what truly creates happiness. Thomas is a retired elementary and middle school teacher and school principal with 43 years of experience and is the author of Pursuit Academy’s 7th and 8th Grade curriculum. We begin instructing both 7th and 8th Grades this school year and will expand the program to grades K ~ 8 in the Fall. Pursuit Academy’s curriculum imparts the skills that help students first become entrepreneurs of their own lives. From there, they can become effective leaders who do the right thing. We are blessed to have this uniquely Catholic life skills program!

We are keeping our eye on the present with an orientation toward the future! It is my intention to see our school grow and thrive. We are turning our attention to improving our instructional method with the goal of boosting student learning outcomes while adding enrichment activities to our after-school program. For many years I have been intrigued by schools that have adopted a Classical Education instructional approach. *Classical Education* can mean the educational methods used by the Greeks and Romans but it is so much more. While this method is not restricted to the classical period, we use this term to describe instruction that is authoritative, traditional and enduring. It includes providing instruction in grammar, logic, rhetoric, critical thinking and reasoning as well as Latin. Please consider the following:

Classical Education Offers:

- A deeper vision for the purpose of education: creating an engaged, well-rounded human being
- A vision that dovetails perfectly with the Catholic Faith: the goal of developing saints
- The unification of the twin purposes of pursuing Faith and Reason which benefit each other
- A stronger, more focused community of faculty and students centered on learning
- An educational mindset that is focused in a way that helps students get to the next level of their development
- Improved outcomes that increase student engagement while developing a deeper unity of purpose
- The benefit of receiving the wisdom of previous generations
- Instruction in thinking clearly with the ability to discern truth from falsehood
- Study in the roots of the English language that strengthens the ability to learn other languages as well

I've recently seen this method in action with great effect. I visited St. Agnes School and sat in on a 3rd Grade Socratic Seminar where boys and girls, skilled in logic and reasoning, made and defended their opinions. I was stunned watching a 5th Grade Latin class where, literally, every student was engaged and demonstrated a solid depth and mastery of the lesson. I am not suggesting that we adopt the St. Agnes model in total. I believe there are best practices that we can adopt and improve our own practices and academic outcomes at St. Raphael Catholic School. Our plan is to begin incorporating elements of Classical Education in the upcoming Fall term. If we are to grow, we must be willing to transform. We must dare to be different. Adding aspects of the Classical Education model will help us reach our goals.

I am excited to see enrichment opportunities break new ground at our school with minimal cost to our families. Here are our new programs:

- Robotics (Grades 5 ~ 8)
- Medical Explorer Program (Grades 5 ~ 8)
- Karate (Grades K ~ Adult)
- Art Club (Grades 3 ~ 8)
- Chess Club (Grades 3 ~ 8)

We continue to work rebuilding our Band and Orchestra programs as well as ensuring the long-term sustainability and viability for all enrichment programs.

2018/2019 School Year Tuition and Registration

One of my goals was to add additional after-school programs without incurring substantial cost. We sought and received outside funding where necessary in order to ensure no cost (or very low cost) after-school opportunities for the current academic year. After a thorough review from our Finance Council, it is quite apparent that our current tuition and registration structure is insufficient to meet the next school year's fiscal responsibilities. Consequently, we have designed a new tuition structure and increased tuition rates to help assure financial stability, while remaining competitive with area schools. Tuition rates have increased by 6.5% for Active Parishioners and 10% for the standard tuition rate, K-8. In addition, Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten rates have increased by 6.5%, well below the average pre-school and pre-kindergarten rates of area pre-schools. Our 2018/2019 school year tuition rates are scheduled as follows:

2018 – 2019 K – 8 Tuition Rates

Tuition Rates per Student	K-5 1 st Child	K-5 2 nd Child	K-5 3 rd Child	6-8 1 st Child	6-8 2 nd Child	6-8 3 rd Child	More than 3 Children
*Active Parishioner	4625	4525	4325	4725	4625	4425	No additional Cost
Standard	4925	4825	4625	5025	4925	4725	No additional Cost

2018 – 2019 Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten Tuition Rates

(10% reduction per family, per school year with two or more children enrolled in PS and/or PK at the same time.)

Full Day Program	Full Day Pre-School (Age 3 by Sept 1st)	Full Day Pre-Kindergarten (Age 4 by Sept 1st)
5 days/Week 7:30-2:30	6,337	6,337
4 days/Week 7:30-2:30	5,121	5,121
3 days/Week 7:30-2:30	4,397	4,397
2 days/Week 7:30-2:30	4,045	Not Available
Half Day Programs	Half Day Pre-School (Age 3 by Sept 1st)	Half Day Pre-Kindergarten (Age 4 by Sept 1st)
5 days/Week 7:30-2:30	4,526	4,526
4 days/Week 7:30-2:30	3,834	3,834
3 days/Week 7:30-2:30	3,142	3,142
2 days/Week 7:30-2:30	2,450	Not Available

*Active Parishioner Tuition Credit

Active Parishioner Tuition Credit is an option and a privilege granted to those families that fulfill all requirements on a regular and consistent basis. The criteria for eligibility for the active parishioner tuition rate for St. Raphael Catholic School will be evaluated on April 29, 2019 and any family fulfilling all requirements will be assigned a \$300 credit for each student. The requirements to meet Active Parishioner Tuition Credit are as follows:

1. Be registered in St. Raphael Parish.
2. Be faithful to Mass on the Lord's Day (Sunday or Saturday Vigil) and on Holy Days of Obligation. To be considered an active parishioner, a family must attend Mass at least 25 times between August 1 and April 27, 2019 at St. Raphael Catholic Church. Attendance is recorded by use of contribution envelopes.
3. Support the work of the parish through traceable, unrestricted financial contributions (e.g., envelope offerings or electronic fund transfers).

For more information about the Active Parishioner Tuition Credit, please see accompanying handout.

~~~Open Enrollment Dates and Registration Fee (Important!)~~~

**Open enrollment begins on February 20, 2018. *Please note the registration fee schedule has changed.***

New Family Registration is \$100 per student (maximum \$200 per family). Returning Family Registration is \$75 per student (maximum of \$150 per family). **After March 16<sup>th</sup>, new and returning family registration will be \$150 per student (maximum \$300 per family). If you are a returning family, please be sure to register your children before the March 16<sup>th</sup> deadline and take advantage of the early registration opportunity.**

### The Value of St. Raphael Catholic School Education

We are committed to providing the best academic programs at the most reasonable cost. We believe Catholic School has a strong value proposition evidenced by these and many other student achievements:

Fall 2017 Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Report

St. Raphael Catholic School students take the MAP Assessment three times each year. Scores for each student are taken from supervised computer tests in the following areas: Reading, Math, and Language Usage. Students earn a RIT Score in each of these areas (RIT is short for "Rasch Unit" and is an estimation of a student's instructional level and also measures student progress or growth in school). The MAP Assessment does not measure intelligence or a student's capacity for learning. Individual MAP RIT Scores enable teachers

to pinpoint what students have learned and what students are ready to learn. Here are our student's results for Mathematics and Reading (by grade):

**Mathematics:**

| Grade Level | Fall RIT | Grade Level RIT Expectation      |
|-------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| K           | 138.7    | 140                              |
| 1           | 160.5    | 162.4                            |
| 2           | 175.7    | 176.9                            |
| 3           | 190.7    | 190.4 (exceeded RIT expectation) |
| 4           | 201.5    | 201.9                            |
| 5           | 209.3    | 211.4                            |
| 6           | 218      | 217.6 (exceeded RIT expectation) |
| 7           | 235      | 222.6 (exceeded RIT expectation) |
| 8           | 237.1    | 226.3 (exceeded RIT expectation) |

Each class was very close to its Fall RIT Score expectation or (in the case of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades) exceeded RIT Score expectations!

**Reading:**

| Grade Level | Fall RIT | Grade Level RIT Expectation      |
|-------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| K           | 142.1    | 141 (exceeded RIT expectation)   |
| 1           | 164.6    | 160.7 (exceeded RIT expectation) |
| 2           | 175.4    | 174.7 (exceeded RIT expectation) |
| 3           | 195.2    | 188.3 (exceeded RIT expectation) |
| 4           | 202.5    | 198.2 (exceeded RIT expectation) |
| 5           | 210.2    | 205.7 (exceeded RIT expectation) |
| 6           | 212.6    | 211 (exceeded RIT expectation)   |
| 7           | 224.7    | 214.4 (exceeded RIT expectation) |
| 8           | 225.6    | 225.6 (exceeded RIT expectation) |

Every one of our classes exceeded Fall Reading RIT Score expectations!

Language Usage (K ~ 2 does not take the Language Usage Exam):

| Grade             | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8     |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| National Mean RIT | 189.4 | 198.8 | 205.6 | 210.7 | 214   | 216.2 |
| SRS Mean RIT      | 194.1 | 204.5 | 207.6 | 217.1 | 225.9 | 226.7 |

Every one of our classes exceeded National Mean Fall RIT Score levels! Our data also shows...

**Fall Mathematics MAP Scores**

- 21% of our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders scored in the top 6% in the country!
- 16% of our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders scored in the top 2% in the country!!
- 93% of our 7<sup>th</sup> Graders scored in the top 40% in the country!!!
- 40% of our 7<sup>th</sup> Graders scored in the top 12% in the country!!!!

**Fall Reading MAP Scores**

- 42% of our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders scored in the top 22% in the country!
- 16% of our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders scored in the top 4% in the country!!
- 80% of our 7<sup>th</sup> Graders scored in the top 30% in the country!!!
- 20% of our 7<sup>th</sup> Graders scored in the top 9% in the country!!!!

When considering how well we are preparing our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students for high school, these are very encouraging results!

### **Fall Language Usage MAP Scores**

- 95% of our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders scored in the top 50% in the country!
- 53% of our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders scored in the top 25% in the country!!
- 100% of our 7<sup>th</sup> Graders scored in the top 50% in the country!!!
- 60% of our 7<sup>th</sup> Graders scored in the top 15% in the country!!!!

Consider the following **Honor Roll** statistics:

- 36% of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students achieved the Honor Roll!
- 33% of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students achieved the Honor Roll!
- 25% of 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students achieved the Honor Roll!
- 53% of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students achieved the Honor Roll!!
- 63% of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students achieved the Honor Roll!!

What does this mean? It means that during the first trimester, 43% of St. Raphael students (grades 4 ~ 8) were named to the Honor Roll (3.5 ~ 3.79 GPA) or the High Honor Roll (3.8 ~ 3.99 GPA)! Our highest Honor Roll is "Academic Excellence" (a perfect 4.0 GPA) and we hope to see students named to this prestigious honor! These are most impressive results that show not only the quality of our teachers but says something about who our students choose to be...scholars in their own right!

### Fall Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten State Licensing Inspection

Our programs were re-licensed by the State of Minnesota on Dec 13, 2017. During a meeting with the inspectors, it was made very clear that our program and facility compliance exceeded expectations. Our Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten team is truly outstanding and set themselves (and their program) apart--far above and beyond other programs in our area!

St. Raphael Catholic School has so much to offer: a safe and loving environment; a strong Catholic identity; a Christ-centered atmosphere where the Holy Spirit is free to move and work in our students, teachers, and staff; a rigorous curriculum where students are held to high academic standards of performance; Preschool and Pre-K programs that set the bar for safety and compliance in a loving and nurturing environment where every child knows the love of Jesus; a growing after-school program offering that challenges student's thinking and helps build Christ-like character; and a competitive sports program that focuses on student-athlete excellence and character development. We are doing great things at St. Raphael Catholic School and are striving to improve outcomes across-the-board. In this, my first year at St. Raphael, I thank you for trusting us with your child/ren and continuing this grand journey!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In His Service,

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