

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2017-2018**

### **What are the school hours?**

School starts for all students at 8:00 a.m. every morning. Kindergarten is dismissed at 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Grades one through eight are dismissed at 2:30 p.m. on Monday and 2:50 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Occasionally, there are minimum days (in-services, faculty meetings, etc.) and school is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. for all students.

### **Is extended care available?**

Yes, extended care is available after school. There is a yearly rate or a drop in hourly rate. Once enrolled (\$50.00 registration fee) the family may use the program as frequently as they wish. After school care is provided from whatever dismissal time is each day until 5:50 p.m. It may be used whenever a family chooses to do so. The rate is \$5.00 per hour, for this service. The yearly rate is \$2,000.00. Parents whose children use the service are billed monthly.

### **How many students are in each classroom?**

We average 35 students per grade. Our experienced and energetic teachers have excellent classroom management skills which allow all our students to succeed. Recognizing the value of additional support staff to enhance education, we have aides in Grades Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth. For all our students, we provide specialized teachers in Math, Science, Technology, Spanish, Physical Education and Music. We have committed after-school teacher support in Technology and Math. Six teachers, departmentalized by their areas of expertise, teach our Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Graders. In addition, our Learning Resource Specialist collaborates with our classroom teachers to ensure all students become successful learners.

### **How old does a child need to be in order to be accepted to kindergarten?**

Students who will be five years old by the first of September will be considered for acceptance.

### **How many new students will be accepted?**

In the last few years, we have enrolled approximately 35 students in our kindergarten. Based on our parent survey, we expect that half the kindergarten enrollment next year will be made up of brothers and sisters of current St. Stephen School students. We have had many requests for enrollment information both from families currently part of the St. Stephen School community and new families.

There are not many openings in other grades. However, we believe we will enroll about ten new students this year for grades one to seven.

**What is the criteria for acceptance?**

Our considerations are not different from those of other schools. They include the family's connection with the school, if the family is an active contributing member of the Parish community at St. Stephen Church and what talents the family is willing to share with the school community.

Applicants for grades one through seven must provide their most recent report card and be tested. We will not consider accepting students who do not have good report cards especially in conduct and effort.

Please know that just because we may have an opening in a grade, especially in grades one through seven, that does not mean we will always choose to fill it.

**How does one apply?**

Applications may be picked up in person, in the school office or are available online.

The completed application is required of all applicants. Students applying to kindergarten and first grade must present an original, official, embossed birth certificate or baptismal certificate as proof of age in order to complete the registration process. A copy alone of either of these items can be temporarily accepted. However, an original must be provided before the child starts school.

**When will we be notified about the status of our kindergarten application(s)?**

Kindergarten screening takes place on a Saturday in January. During the last week of January we plan to mail kindergarten acceptances.

**When will we be notified about the status of our application to other grades?**

When we complete our own students' re-registration process, (no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>), we will begin accepting students for grades one through seven to fill any openings we have.

**What happens if I receive a letter of acceptance?**

You will be given a deadline, approximately one week, to submit the appropriate fees to hold your child's place. These fees are non-refundable. If you change your mind and do not send your child to the school for any reason, the fees are still non-refundable. If the office does not receive the fees to hold your child's place by the stated deadline, the space will not be held and will be offered to another applicant.

**What if my child has been put on the waiting list?**

Because of the number of applicants, some children may be wait listed. Certainly there will be wonderful families and children put on the waiting list. No school can accommodate so many terrific applicants. Our experience has been that openings develop even up to the beginning of the school year. When that happens, we reconsider all the applicants on our waiting list. The waiting list is unranked and we will choose the best applicant from those available. We do not know when those vacancies will occur or how many we may have during this process. We only know that we will have some changes and additions.

**How much is tuition and how is it paid?**

Currently tuition is approximately \$7,100 for one child. Families may choose from three different tuition payment plans including the single payment plan, the semester payment plan or the standard, ten payment plan.

**Why should we choose St. Stephen School for our child(ren)?**

We like to think that there are many reasons. St. Stephen School is a school of choice. We are a child-centered school. We are also a parish school. The majority of our families live in the neighborhood and are members of St. Stephen Parish community.

**St. Stephen School Mission Statement**

It is the mission of St. Stephen School community to educate children in a nurturing, faith-filled environment, which addresses the spiritual and intellectual needs of each child. Our school community is committed to maintaining and promoting a Catholic identity and value system by modeling Christian values. We recognize that parents are the primary educators of their children and collaborate with them in our role as their children's teachers.