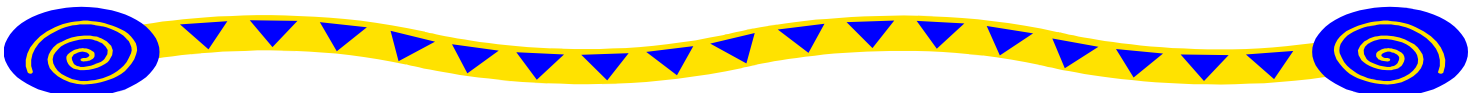


St. Joseph's Catholic School - Commonly Asked Questions

- Are students required to wear uniforms? If so, what is required?
 - Students enrolled in preschool are exempt from wearing uniforms. They may wear any comfortable clothing with shoes and socks. Students in grades K-8 are required to wear uniforms which consist of the following:
 - **Boys** - solid blue navy or khaki tan pants - no cargo pants/shorts. Belts are required for grades 3-8. Plain white or navy blue shirts with a fold over collar - long or short sleeve is fine.
 - **Girls** - solid navy blue or khaki tan pants, skirts or jumpers. Skirts and jumpers may be no more than 3 inches above the knee. Leggings, Lycra, tight knit and colored denim are not acceptable. No cargo pants/shorts. Belts are required for grades 3-8. Plain white or navy blue shirts with a fold over collar - long or short sleeve is fine.
 - **Walking shorts are acceptable during the months of August, September, May and June**
 - **Sandals and crocs (must have a back) are also acceptable during these months, but must be worn with socks**
 - **Socks must be worn at all times**
- Does St. Joseph have shirts/sweatshirts with the school logo available?
 - St. Joseph t-shirts and sweatshirts are available for sale during the school year and are considered part of the uniform dress code. Order forms are sent home at the beginning of the school year and again in the spring.
- What is an Out of Uniform Day/Out of Uniform for Missions?
 - On out of uniform days (see school calendar for specific dates); students may wear other types of appropriate casual clothing such as jeans. Usually, one out of uniform day per month is designated as "a mission day". Students may dress in out of uniform clothing on these days, but are asked to bring a monetary donation (50 cents per student) to benefit a mission of choice.
 - **Out of Uniform Passes can also be obtained from the school office when students turn in 10 Box Tops for Education coupons, clipped from General Mills Products.**



- What is the Hawk Hike?
 - The Hawk Hike is the school's annual fundraiser. It's usually held the first Saturday in October. Students are asked to raise donations by "hiking" on a bike trail close to the school. All monies raised go toward the betterment of the school.
- What time of day does school start and end?
 - The school day commences at 8:15am. If students are not in their classroom by this time, they are counted tardy. The earliest students can be dropped off is 7:45am, in the gym. They are chaperoned there until they are taken upstairs for class. School dismisses at 3:15pm.
- What is the car line and how does it work?
 - Students who are picked up at school by a parent or guardian will exit through the gym doors at the back parking lot. Students will line up and wait on the sidewalk. Cars are to enter from the north drive and exit by the east drive. Drivers are to form two lines in the parking lot and wait until the hand bell is rung to load students and again to pull out of the parking lot. Please be safety conscious and follow the directions of the safety patrol students and teachers on duty. **Do not pull into the parking spots by the sidewalk outside the gym. Do not park on Thompson or E. 34th and have your child/ren come to the curb to enter the car. Please do not pick up your children in front of the school on E. 33rd.** If you are late picking up your child/ren they will remain with the Child Care Program (which is available before and after school) and you will be charged accordingly. **Please be very observant of other children when entering and leaving the parking lot.**

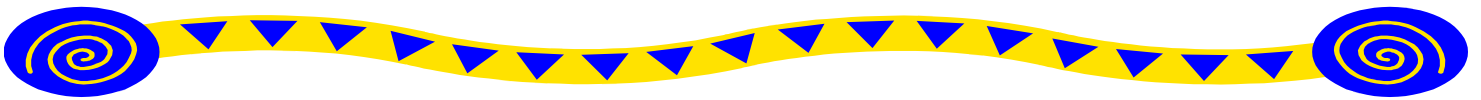


- Do you offer a hot lunch program?
 - We do offer a hot lunch program, prepared in our own kitchen. Students may also bring a sack lunch to keep in their room (there is no refrigeration available for sack lunches). Milk (white, chocolate or strawberry) is provided with hot lunch, or can be purchased by the carton for 50 cents. Middle School students (grades 5-8) are provided with an Ala Carte Menu to order from for an additional cost. Parents are welcome to come and share lunch with their child any day. The cost of an adult lunch is \$3.00. Please contact the school office before 10:00am on the day you wish to come. **All students are offered a juice break every morning. Juice fees are payable to the office at the beginning of the school year.**

- Does St. Joseph's have a parent/teacher organization?
 - Yes, St. Joseph's has a Home and School organization which helps ensure the means of communication and information between parents, school staff, and the Board of Education. This group usually meets once per month and all parents are encouraged to attend. Typically, at the first Home and School meeting of the year, a uniform exchange/swap is held for those parents that donated outgrown uniform clothing. The clothing is free to take and is very beneficial for new students! Students can also earn an Out of Uniform pass when a parent attends.

- What methods of communication with parents do you use?
 - The school office is available daily from 7:30am - 4:00pm at 266-3433. Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns. You may also reach most of our staff via email through our website, www.stjosephschoolsm.org. Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled twice a year for ALL students (typically in October and February). All teachers write a monthly newsletter that is posted on the website on the last day of each month. (A paper copy can be provided for those without internet access). Please take the time to read these newsletters; it's a great way to find out what's happening in the classrooms. All parents are encouraged to sign up for access to our Parent Email List. By means of this email, school reminders and bits of information can be forwarded to either home or work.





- What happens when you have an unscheduled early dismissal?
 - Occasionally, our school may close due to inclement weather, etc. Please listen to KRNT or WHO radio for updates, or watch Channel 8 or 13 News. Please be aware that we follow the Des Moines Public Schools' schedule for closing; if they close due to weather, we will follow suit. If our school closes early on a particular day, we will first notify parents through our parent email, then by phone call.

- Do you have weekly liturgies?
 - Yes, our school mass is held on Wednesday mornings at 8:30am. All students help plan and participate in prayer service and liturgies. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend and can sit with their child/ren.

- Do you provide busing?
 - Yes, we provide round trip, door to door busing for Ankeny and Altoona, as well as the surrounding Des Moines area.

- Do you offer a before and after school program?
 - Yes, we do offer Before and After school child care. The program is held on-site, in our school gym. Hours of operation are 6:45am - 8:15am and 3:15pm - 6:00pm. Please contact the school office for details and rates.

