

With Open Arms

A Handbook to Welcome New Families to St. Anne Catholic School



MISSION STATEMENT

St. Anne Catholic School provides a quality Catholic education and develops responsible, Christian, young adults with an emphasis on moral and religious values of
FAITH, COMMUNITY, AND SERVICE.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe that man is created for eternal life with God and that he should seek this goal. For this reason St. Anne Catholic School is totally committed to quality Catholic education.

Our school is dedicated to promoting spiritual and moral growth, intellectual excellence, physical fitness, cultural appreciation, and a willingness to serve others. Parents and faculty members have an obligation to encourage our students to deal critically with reality and to make decisions with Christian freedom. Through example, we hope to awaken in students a capacity for creativity, responsibility, commitment, and prayer.

WELCOME!

It truly is ***With Open Arms*** that we welcome you, our new families, to the St. Anne Catholic School community.

There are approximately 450 families that make up our school community. All of us were, at one time, new to the rules, policies, traditions, and history that are St. Anne Catholic School. We hope that by reading this book and referring to it during the year, you will feel more “at home” and comfortable about knowing what to do, where to go, whom to see, and more.

This book was originally conceived and written by parents for parents and, after many years, is now a combination of contributions from members of the school faculty and staff, parents who have been with the school for a number of years, and parents who are new in the past year or two. We have tried to address the questions that are most prevalent to new families but ask you to join with us in improving the next edition of ***With Open Arms*** by letting us know if there are questions still unanswered. Please refer to the end of this book for a page which you can tear out and return with your comments or suggestions.

Please take special notice that this book is not a replacement for the *Parent/Student Handbook*, which you are given at the beginning of the school year. The ***Parent/Student Handbook*** is the official guidebook containing rules, policies, and information. ***With Open Arms*** is an additional tool to help you become more familiar with the history, tradition, and practices at St. Anne. It will provide you with helpful information, but for specific “official” questions, please refer to the ***Parent/Student Handbook***.

Again, we consider this to be an informational booklet. Feel free to send comments throughout the year that we can use to make this publication as helpful as possible for new families. Included in this booklet is information about:

- Getting Started
- St. Anne’s History
- The Campus
- Carpooling and Parking
- Dress Code and Uniforms
- Lunch and the ‘Cat Café
- Communication
- Religious Education and Programs
- Academic Programs and Activities
- Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten
- Extracurricular Learning and Activities
- School Events and Organizations
- Financial Matters

Getting Started

Two of our most important school organizations at St. Anne are our School Board and our Home and School Association (see pages 29 and 30 for specific information about these organizations.) Each of these groups would like to welcome you to our school. Members and their families serve as *Buddy Families* to help those new to the school acclimate to St. Anne. Buddy families are selected based on the grade level of your child or children and will be able to provide you with helpful information you might need that is more special to your family's upcoming experiences. Expect a call very soon!

You will have an opportunity to meet new families and to become more familiar with our school policies and practices at the New Family Orientation meeting. During this time we will share general information, answer specific questions, and provide you with an opportunity to purchase items such as lunch tickets, a school directory, or school t-shirts. The Home and School leadership will be present to recruit your help with volunteer activities.

Our School Board sponsors a Welcome Picnic on the evening of the first day of school so that new families can come together to meet other school families. Children get to know each other while eating dinner and playing in the park. Parents can connect with other adults, both new to our school and veterans!

You will find that we plan many events throughout the year that ensure opportunities for families to gather. For example, our annual Halloween Carnival is one event you will not want to miss! In addition, our school directory, *The 'Cat Connection*, is a very useful tool to help you connect with others. Feel free to call on your buddy family or any of us at school to help you with any questions or concerns.

Our website address is www.stannecatholic.org. You will find this to be an excellent and always available resource. Our school calendar is current and lists important activities and events. You will also find a directory of employees there so you can contact your child's teacher or a member of our staff. Go to the website frequently to stay current with St. Anne news and information.

About St. Anne's History

On Monday, September 13, 1937, the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur rang the school bell as St. Anne School began its first day as the parish school for St. Anne Catholic Church. The four classrooms in which those first one hundred four students began school are still in use today. This small school built on the outskirts of town offered these children a level of education and learning far surpassing most schools already in operation. Early statistics show that most of the children in the parish attended the school and indicate that St. Anne School was, from its inception, the heart of the parish. This devotion to educational excellence in a Catholic setting has continued for more than seventy years.

In 1978, St. Anne Parish was divided, and the student body of 450 students then belonged to two different parishes. The pastor started buying additional property on the block on which the school sat. As enrollment began to grow steadily, old buildings on this new property were utilized, and temporary metal buildings were purchased or built. St. Anne School became known throughout the community as a significant elementary school, and children from other parishes and from other faiths began attending the school. St. Anne School has even become a selling point for persons wishing to relocate to Beaumont. Although two thirds of St. Anne Parish children attend St Anne School, they make up only forty-seven percent of the school. The other fifty-three percent come from other parishes, other counties, other religions, other cultures. St. Anne School has become a truly multi-faith, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural environment.

Today St. Anne School offers the traditional ten years of schooling associated with a Catholic elementary school – pre-kindergarten through grade eight. There are three homerooms per grade level beginning with kindergarten. The tradition of St. Anne School is a rich one. Students attend weekly Mass in the original church building and participate annually in the May Crowning of Mary. The school's major fundraiser, the Halloween Carnival, continues a tradition begun in the 1940's. As one returning alumnus commented recently, "While adding the best of the new, you've kept the best of the old."

St. Anne strives to be a community with a sense of family. Parents, students and faculty find many occasions to come together and share in the fulfillment of the mission of the school. Service projects that take students, parents, and faculty off campus and out into the larger public community have become a way of life at St. Anne. Eighth-graders help on a regular basis at a local soup kitchen. Fourth and fifth graders sing at local nursing homes. Other service projects held on campus include the entire student body. Thousands of dollars each year have been donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as a result of the students' participation in the St. Jude Math-A-Thon. Teachers and parents work together in setting educational goals. Twice a year, mandatory parent-student-teacher conferences are held for a joint discussion of students' progress.

St. Anne School offers each student the richness of its history and traditions, the educational excellence that continues today, and the exciting promise of the future. St. Anne School continues to fulfill its mission of providing a quality Catholic education rooted in moral and religious values and fostered by commitment and service.

About the Campus

Q. Where do I find the Clinic? Extended Day? The Library? Others?

A. What a good question! When you are new anywhere, it is very difficult to find your way around. A map of our grounds is included in the back of this book.

Pre-k, kindergarten, and grades 1 – 4 occupy the original permanent structure, which is referred to as the Primary Building. The nurse's clinic is located in the south end of the Primary Building.

The Secondary Building houses the administrative offices, library, computer lab, science laboratory, and classrooms for fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

Extended Day is held in the cafeteria from 3:00 until 5:30 pm. Students are given a snack, may complete homework, are allowed to play games, and do arts and crafts, all in a supervised setting. Extended Day is closed on Parent-Teacher-Student Conference days, teacher in-service days, and all school holidays.

When visiting the campus you are certain to see another parent, a volunteer or an employee (who can be easily identified by the name badge which they will be wearing.) Each will be happy to help you find your way to the room or office that you are looking for.

Q. What do I need to do when I come to school to visit?

A. Parents are welcomed anytime that they wish to visit the school; however, it is not appropriate to go directly to any classroom as it would cause a disturbance to the class and the teaching taking place at that time. Parents are asked to go directly to the receptionist's office in the Secondary Building to "sign in" and receive a Visitor Pass. You can discuss your needs with the receptionist and she will help you. If you are visiting for lunch you can receive your visitor badge and go to the cafeteria. (Remember, like any other eating establishment, bringing in lunches from other vendors/eating establishments is not allowed.)

Parents are encouraged to attend daily Mass with their children. A Visitor Badge is not necessary to go directly to the Church.

*For the safety of our children, all doors are locked in the Primary Building. Parents must report to the Secondary Building and the receptionist will assist you. If you need to have something delivered to your child, let the receptionist know, and she will see that it is taken to him or her. If you are there to pick up your child during the day for an appointment, the student should meet you at the receptionist's desk after presenting a pass to the teacher to be dismissed from class (refer to the *Handbook* for procedure.)

About Carpool & Parking

Q. Where do I drop off my child in the morning? Where do I pick up my child in the afternoons?

A. The back of this book contains a diagram showing the carpool routes and how to drop off and pick up your child and/or carpool. It is diagrammed clearly, and shows exactly how the traffic pattern has been designed. It is easy to follow. However, if you have questions, please ask because it is most important for the safety of everyone – students and drivers. **DO NOT** drive into and/or drop students off in the staff parking lot at the corner of Liberty and 11th streets just in front of the Secondary Building. **DO NOT** park and/or drop students off in the church parking lot.

Currently there are two drop-off locations. One is located at the gymnasium area and the other is at the main building porch. There are signs indicating that you should pull up as far as possible in order to accommodate the maximum number of cars. There are also two pick-up locations. One is at the primary porch and the other is at the secondary building walkway. Again, please pull up as far as possible to accommodate as many vehicles as possible. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE VEHICLES UNATTENDED IN THE PICK-UP/DROP-OFF LINES.** All students are to be loaded into their cars in the carpool lines. Parent should not walk up to carpool areas and take their children.

Please remember one thing about the traffic patterns and the information that is given to you; it has been designed to accommodate the hundreds of cars that must flow through the campus both in the mornings and afternoons at a quick pace and with safety as a priority. If you try to be the exception to the norm, **you** will be a problem to the many others who follow the design. While we love people who are different and unique, in this instance, we ask that you please follow the rules about the traffic flow and join in being “one of the crowd” in this issue.

Q. Is there any other way to pick up my child than to get in the carpool line?

A. Parents must refrain from parking and walking to get your child at the end of the day. There are nearly 600 children to be picked up in the shortest amount of time possible, and maintaining safety is of greatest importance. Stay in the carpool line and drive through one of the pick-up lines, and you will find yourself on your way very quickly. Liberty Street parking lot will be closed from 2:45 until 3:30 each school day. If a child needs to be picked up early, parents must check them out before carpool begins at 2:45 p.m.

Q. Where do I park on campus?

A. The Liberty Street parking lot is open during the day except during arrival time of 7:30-8:00 and dismissal time of 2:45 until 3:30. If it is during carpool times either in the morning or afternoon, the answer is simple: don't park!

During the day, if you visit the campus to see a teacher, bring something to your child, or come for lunch, you will find parking spaces on the campus just off the porch (west of the Primary Building, north of the Secondary Building). Enter from Thirteenth Street as you usually would to pick up your child and drive up to the main building area. You will notice orange flags or cones marking the walkways for the children. Part of the parking lot is roped off for a playground area, and "no parking" places and parking spots for school personnel are designated. Other space is available for parking, but be sure to leave room for others to get in and out.

Q. What happens if I'm late (after 3:30) picking up my child?

A. Students not picked up on time will be sent to Extended Day and charged according to how long students remain there. All students will be enrolled in the Extended Day program at the beginning of the year in order for us to have emergency names and numbers on file in the event that we need to send your child there for supervision. Parents will pay the enrollment fee and any charges incurred.



About Dress Code & Uniforms

Q. Can my child wear logo designs and labels on shoes and shirts?

A. Shoes. Your child may wear any style, brand, or color of shoe with or without a logo. Remember that it must be a closed shoe (toe and heel), with no platform. Of course, we encourage students to wear an athletic shoe of some type which is most comfortable for a day full of walking and activities. Boots may only be worn underneath long pants.

Shirts. Only shirts available through Parker Uniforms and sweatshirts and fleece jackets with the St. Anne logo are allowed. Other logo designs are not permitted on shirts, socks, jackets, or slacks.

Outerwear. The only outerwear that may be worn in buildings is St. Anne sweatshirts or Parker Uniform sweaters or fleece jackets. Coats and jackets must be removed during class time.

Q. I bought things through the Parker Uniform sale that are on the store's list but not listed in our dress code. Can my child wear them?

A. We are sorry this happened to you. Please check our school list carefully so that you only buy what you need. You will find the dress code spelled out specifically in the *Parent-Student Handbook*. Parker Uniform is very accommodating about returns and exchanges so maybe that is an option for you.

For convenience, Parker Uniform will operate a store at Monsignor Kelly High School during the summer and you can simply go there to shop. Dates and hours of operation will be sent through the school.

Q. What exactly is allowed according to the dress code?

A. Here we refer you directly to the *Parent/Student Handbook* where the answer to your question is spelled out clearly and specifically. Students who are not in compliance with the dress code will be sent to the office to call a parent for the correct items to be brought to them.

The shirttails of both boys and girls are to be tucked in **at all times**. The only exception is the overblouse for girls.

Q. What are special dress-up days?

A. Non-uniform or dress-up days occur occasionally. The individual picture day is a uniform day. Refer to the dress code in the handbook about this because appropriate dress is still required on non-uniform or dress-up days.

Q. How do I get the school logo shirts, t-shirts and/or sweatshirts?

A. The uniform items you asked about are sold throughout the year. Your first step in this procedure is to visit the receptionist's desk where there are some items on hand for immediate sale. If she does not have what you need, you may get an order form. Once you place your order and pay for the item(s), it will be delivered to your child very quickly. Of course, you do not want to wait for the first t-shirt day to try to purchase one, or the first "cold day" to try to get a sweatshirt. Plan ahead and your child will be properly dressed and ready.

Q. What do I do with uniforms that my child has outgrown?

A. It happens often, doesn't it? As your child outgrows the uniform items you have a few options. Many people have family or friends to whom they give or sell the uniforms.

If you prefer, the Home and School Association has developed a great uniform exchange program over the years. You have a chance to look at the item you will be receiving and select whichever one is the right size and condition for you.

The Association holds an exchange on campus once or twice during the year. You may contact the Uniform Exchange Chairman by referring to the telephone directory for the name and number of whom to contact (look under the listing of HSA officers.) Uniforms are given away. There are no used sales.

Q. When do the children wear the school T-shirts? How do I get one?

A. The last Monday of every month is Spirit Day and students may wear a St. Anne t-shirt. Students are allowed to wear blue jeans or uniform shorts, skorts, skirts, or pants with a St. Anne t-shirt. You can order a current design of the St. Anne shirt on-line. On Spirit days, any St. Anne t-shirt may be worn. Past designs of the school logo or mascot on a shirt, choir shirts, Accelerated Reader shirts, etc. are all permitted.

Carnival shirts are usually worn weekly during the months of September and October with jeans or uniform pants. You will be given a list of dates that are approved to wear Carnival shirts. Shirts with the current year logo design will be sold during "Meet-the-Teacher Day" and on-line after that. Past year designs may also be worn.

Q. On "jeans day," can a child wear denim shorts or black jeans?

A. That one is very easy: **NO**. Blue jeans are allowed, no other colors. Jeans with patterns, patches, or decorations of any kind are not permitted. The uniform navy walking shorts may be worn as well as the navy long pants. Of course, uniform skorts and skirts are always approved

Q. There are so many choices and combinations of uniforms. In what grades do students wear jumpers, skirts, skorts, and shorts?

A. Girls in pre-k through 5th grades wear jumpers, skorts, shorts, and long pants. Girls may wear red or white shirts.

Girls in 6th through 8th grades may wear plaid skirts, skorts, and shorts as well as navy shorts or long pants.

Students in pre-k through seventh grade must wear a monogrammed polo-style shirt, which is purchased from Parker Uniform Company.

Q. When will my child need to “dress out” for P.E.?

A. P. E. uniforms or clothes are not needed until the seventh grade. Seventh and eighth graders “dress out” for physical education classes. The student will need to wear royal blue athletic shorts and a t-shirt in either gold or white (plain/no slogans or emblems).



About Lunch & the Cafeteria

Q. When will my child be eating lunch?

A. The children eat lunch with all the classes in their grade (that is, all the kindergarten eats at the same time, all fourth graders eat at the same time, etc.)

The lunch schedule is:

BY GRADE

Pre-K & K	10:25 - 10:55
1 st	10:50 - 11:20
2 nd	10:55 - 11:25
3 rd	12:25 – 12:55
4 th	11:40 - 12:10
5 th	12:25 - 12:55
6 th	12:05 – 12:35
7 th	11:25 – 11:55
8 th	11:25 – 11:55

BY TIME

10:25 - 10:55	Pre-K & K
10:50 - 11:20	1 st
10:55 - 11:25	2 nd
11:25 – 11:55	7 th
11:25 – 11:55	8 th
11:40 - 12:10	4 th
12:05 – 12:35	6 th
12:25 – 12:55	3 rd
12:25 - 12:55	5 th

Q. How do I purchase lunch for my child?

A. Lunch ordering is done on-line. The monthly menu will be posted and you may select the days you wish to purchase a lunch and order. You may choose different sizes (regular lunches are \$3 and extra entrée sizes are \$4) and other options like extra drink or water bottle (75¢), and the ever-popular ice cream treat (75¢) on Friday. After ordering, you can pay on-line with credit or debit card, or you also have the option of sending a check (**payable to St. Anne**) for amount of the total order (Please put in an envelope and write “lunches” in the memo line. If the child’s name does not appear on the cafeteria’s list of lunch orders, the student will be give a hot lunch (if there is enough prepared) or a cheese sandwich and the parent will be billed.

Q. Can sodas be included in the lunch bag or box?

A. While it is not encouraged, carbonated drinks can be packed in the child’s lunch. Nutritionally speaking, juice or milk would be a better choice, but that is the parent’s prerogative. **No glass bottles** of any sort should be sent to school.

Q. My child wants to buy an ice cream every day. Can he do that? Is this by ticket or cash?

A. Ice cream is sold in the cafeteria on Friday of each week. Like ordering lunches, ice cream can be ordered and paid for in advance. The cafeteria will have a list of those who have paid for an ice cream treat. The cost is 75¢ and can also be bought with coins.

Q. May I come eat lunch with my child?

A. Parents are always welcome to eat with their child. Remember, you need to sign in at the front office and receive a visitor's pass before going to the cafeteria. There is a special set of tables at the stage-end of the cafeteria for the parent to join their child. Sit at these special tables rather than with your child at the tables for the class. Only your child can join you at these "family" tables; other friends are not allowed to leave their place. Again, you are reminded that food from other eating establishments may not be brought into our Cat Café.

Q. Occasionally, my child asks me to bring him/her lunch from a local fast food place. Is that allowed?

A. The 'Cat Café serves delicious and nutritious lunches for students. No lunches from outside eating establishments is allowed. If you choose to eat lunch with your child, you and your child will be seated at the visitor's table.

Q. What if my child gets to the cafeteria and does not have a ticket?

A. Students will be given a hot lunch (if enough is prepared for the day) or a sandwich if they are not listed on the orders for the day. Parents will be charged for the lunch the cafeteria prepares and serves.

Q. How do the tables get cleaned with so many students coming and going?

A. On a rotating basis, students in grades 3-8 clean the tables as their classmates are leaving the cafeteria. They spray and wipe them. All students must pick up after themselves and throw out their own trash. Not only does this procedure help us to accommodate so many students through the facility in a short time, we feel it also teaches the students responsibility and respect for the school property. The school provides custodial help to sweep and clean the floors.

About Communication

Q. What is the Wildcat Weekly? How does it work?

A. The Wildcat Weekly is a convenient way of receiving communication from the school on a regular basis. The “Wildcat Weekly” is an on-line, electronic news service. Each Friday, parents are emailed the Wildcat Weekly directly to the email address that we have on file. Because this is our main means of regular communication, all parents should have access to a computer and email source. Please keep your email address current and accurate with the school office to assure that you will be up-to-date with the latest changes.

The Wildcat Weekly can also be read directly from the website, www.stannecatholic.org, under the link named “News.” At that site you will find all on-line newsletters posted by date for easy reading and then to have available for reference.

If you do not have a computer in your home, there are computers available in the school Library for your use, as well as in all public libraries. If you need to have a printed copy of the newsletter sent to you, please send a written request to the school so we can arrange for that.

Q. When can I talk with my child’s teacher?

A. Twice a year, after the first and second grading periods, there are scheduled Parent- Teacher Conference days. These are required attendance days during which the child will be counted absent if parent and child do not attend. At this time, you will have the teacher’s undivided attention to discuss your child’s progress and ways that all three of you (parent, teacher, and child) can work together to improve academic performance.

Q. Other than the two conference days, how can I talk with the teacher?

A. Any other time that you need to talk to your child’s teacher, you should send an e-mail or jot a note to him/her and ask that he or she phone you to set up a time for a conference. The teacher will tell you at the start of the year the time of day that will be her/his usual conference time. However, in case that has changed you will want to confirm a day and time for your visit. If you prefer not to send a note to the school, you can call and ask that the teacher be given a message to call you. The receptionist will see that he/she gets your message.

Never call or email a teacher at home for school business.

Q. How do I get listed in the school telephone directory? How do I purchase one?

A. The telephone directory is a major player in communication. No one should be left out and no home should be without one - or two! At Meet-the-Teacher day or before, you can complete and sign a form to include your family in the telephone directory. This form must be submitted EACH year to be included in the book as it represents your permission for release of this information. If the form is not returned, your family will be left out of the publication and you don't want that to happen.

School telephone directories will be for sale as advance purchase during "Meet-the-Teacher Day." The customary cost for this publication is \$5, and you will probably want several copies for different rooms at home, your office, and/or your car.

Q. Does the school have a yearbook? How do we get one?

A. We certainly do have a yearbook. A very nice one is produced each year. The book pictures each student with their class as well as documenting the many activities, programs and awards of the year. Pages of candid shots are favorites for the students because of the memories they bring to mind.

Parents are provided with the opportunity to order a copy in February or March. Books are prepared during the summer and usually distributed in the fall.

A yearbook is certainly something you want to consider as a gift for your child to enjoy for many years to come. Be sure to order at the time the forms are sent out so you do not miss getting a copy.

Q. What is Edline? What is the benefit?

A. Parents can access their own student/students' grades during the school year on the Internet. Teachers have posted calendars for their class activities, assignments, and special projects. Junior High teachers post all their assignments on Edline. The school can send out messages to parents through Edline. You will receive more information about this program and your personal code to activate your account.

About Religious Education & Programs

Q. Will my child be attending Mass regularly? When?

A. Yes, the classes are scheduled to attend Mass on a weekly basis. (Sometimes the schedule has to be altered during one week, but a return to the regular schedule can be anticipated for the following week.

The answer to “when” depends on what grade your child is in. On Wednesday of each week, you will find grades 7, 8, and kindergarten there. Thursday is when grades 2, 3, and 4 attend. And, on Friday, 1st, 5th, and 6th grades attend. Beginning in February, pre-k attends Mass on Friday with 1st, 5th and 6th grades. All daily masses start at 8:15 a.m.

Q. Does the entire school attend Mass together? What is done to honor Holy Days?

A. Absolutely. The real joy of celebrating Mass together as an entire school takes place on every holy day and other special days such as before Christmas, at the end of the first semester and at the close of the school year. All-school Masses are at 9:30 a.m. except the closing Mass (the last day of school), which begins at 8:15.

Q. May I attend Mass with my child? Where do I sit?

A. We love to have parents attending and celebrating the Mass with us! Your child will love seeing you there any day, but most especially if he or she is actively involved in the celebration of the Mass. The second to eighth grade students are involved as readers, gift bearers, and choir members. Usually the teacher will send a note home to let you know when your child will be a reader in order for you to practice with him/her and attend the Mass if you like.

Never, never take pictures of your child during Mass, especially while the child is reading. You can stay afterwards and visit with your child and pose any pictures you would like to take.

During daily Mass, parents are invited to sit with his or her child. During all-school Masses, such as those on holy days, the church is incredibly crowded with students and teachers. Parents are invited to attend but finding a place to sit is sometimes difficult. There are usually some seats on the side and in the very rear of the church.

Q. How are students chosen to participate during Mass?

A. The answer to this question probably varies from teacher to teacher. Some select, some draw names, some ask the students if they would like to take part in a particular way. The teachers do try to include all the children in the class on a rotating basis in some part of the Mass - the readings, the petitions, the offertory, the choir, etc. If your child would

like to have a particular role in the celebration of Eucharist, he or she should express that to the teacher.

Q. What is “Friends of Jesus & Mary?” How do we sign up?

A. Friends of Jesus and Mary is a special prayer group for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. During the time of the study group, they learn and study more about some aspect of the Bible and relate the lesson to a real-life issue. Watch for announcements about when they will be meeting this year.

Registration for this program takes place early in the school year. Special “Friends of Jesus and Mary” t-shirts can be purchased and they can be worn in lieu of a St. Anne logo t-shirt.

Q. When is May Crowning? Who participates?

A. Traditionally held on the first Monday of the month of May, this event is traditionally held in many schools and churches to honor our Blessed Mother Mary. We come together as a school community to pray the rosary and crown the statue of Mary. The eighth grade students are allowed privileges of special processional and seating, and second grade children wear their First Communion apparel. Parents should bring chairs (and umbrellas on some occasions) as well as a rosary.

Q. What is a Living Rosary?

A. When you attend the Living Rosary, conducted by third grade students, you will truly see the Rosary come to life and experience the prayers. Your personal faith can be affirmed, and your belief in Catholic education confirmed as you see our students living their faith in this way. Parents and grandparents are welcomed; bring your rosary and attend this event if you can.

Q. Do the children observe Holy Week and celebrate Easter?

A. We do observe Lent and celebrate Easter. This is the time when we recognize that Christ suffered during this week and died for us on Good Friday. Therefore, there are not Easter parties or celebrations before Easter Sunday when we understand that Christ rose from the dead. The sixth grade students pray the Way of the Cross, bringing the Stations of the Cross to life for us. Everyone is invited, and you will surely be moved by the students’ efforts in this act of faith.

Parties and celebrations for kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 are held **after** Easter Sunday. There are no parties/celebrations allowed before

Easter on Holy Thursday, which is early dismissal day. (There is no school on Good Friday or Easter Monday.)

Q. How do the children celebrate Advent and Christmas?

A. We do celebrate the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas, and in anticipation, parties are held for each class. The homeroom moms work together to plan appropriate activities and refreshments. Since this is Christ's birthday, most have birthday cake or cupcakes and other treats.

Q. What is "Rainbow Mass?"

A. During Catholic Schools Week, the Rainbow Mass is a very special event which our 7th and 8th grade students attend. Instituted by the Most Reverend Bishop Galante and continued by our present bishop, all the Catholic Schools of the Diocese gather to celebrate the Mass together. Concelebrated by many of the Diocesan priests, this event was given its name because of the many colors of the uniforms and the ethnic diversity of the students who make up the Catholic schools of our Diocese. It is a wonderful occasion to see and feel the Word and share in the Supper with other school children, teachers, and parents.



About Academic Programs & Activities

Q. Is our school accredited?

A. Yes, St. Anne is accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department, which is recognized by the Texas Education Agency.

Q. What type of curriculum do we use? Who chooses this curriculum?

A. In 2010, St. Anne will begin using CSCOPE as our curriculum at all grade levels. "CSCOPE is a comprehensive, customizable, user-friendly curriculum management system built on the most current research-based practices in the field. Its primary focus is to impact instructional practices in the classroom to improve student performance." Textbooks are reviewed and selected on a regular basis so as to be accurate and up-to-date.

Q. What is the Accelerated Reader program? When does my child start? How does it work?

A. The Accelerated Reader program is a great program of encouraging children to read for pleasure, content and comprehension. They select a book, and after reading it, take a computer-generated test over the book's content. Based upon the number of questions they answer correctly, the student earns a score and a certain number of points.

Students begin selecting "AR" books and take tests during the first grade. At this grade, participation is for practice and gives the children a good start toward understanding and becoming comfortable with the system. From third through eighth grades, the student is **required** to earn a certain number of points. Those achieving certain AR point goals are rewarded with a treat of candy or an afternoon of fun bowling. Failure to earn the number of points required will adversely affect the student's reading grade.

Q. Does St. Anne offer special assistance for children that require more attention and help with reading?

A. Students who may need individualized attention and help with reading are identified by the teacher. All teachers have received training to assist students with special needs. A special reading team of teachers is on staff and works with small groups of students. Students who have a Student Strategy Plan also receive accommodations as specified in this plan. Tutorials are offered to all students in grades 1-8 after school on Tuesday and Thursday each week.

Q. How do electives work?

A. St. Anne Catholic School offers a variety of electives to students at all grade levels. Grades PreK-5th enjoy computer, music, art, and Spanish classes on a rotating and alternating basis according to the schedule which you can find on-line. In Grade 6 students are divided into groups. On a rotating quarterly basis, each group has the opportunity to experience computer, music, art, and Spanish.

Starting in grade 6, students may take band as a year-long class, replacing the other electives.

Within the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, students are required to take three semesters of computer and physical education. Other electives offered to 7th and 8th grade students may be Art, Band, Spanish, Computer, Leadership, and Theatre.

Q. When does my child start to be recognized as an Honor Roll student?

A. Recognition in the form of Honor Roll begins in the fourth grade. He or she will receive a certificate at the end of each grading period when an all-A or the A - B Honor Roll is achieved. At the end of the year, special recognition at an award ceremony comes for those achieving the Honor Roll, High Honor Roll, Highest Honor Roll and/or "Outstanding Conduct" for the year.

Q. How does a child earn recognition in the National Junior Honor Society?

A. A student becomes eligible for the National Junior Honor Society either at the conclusion of the first semester of the seventh grade or the eighth grade if he or she has attended St. Anne for at least one semester. If he or she has a cumulative scholastic average of at least "90" in core courses, an application will be submitted by the student to a Faculty Council for consideration based on scholarship, character, leadership, service and citizenship. If selected, the student attends an induction ceremony to become officially initiated into the group. The NJHS is very active and involved in student-life activities.

Q. What is Accelerated Math? How does it work?

A. Accelerated Math consists of a library of math objectives for each grade level. Mastery of these objectives becomes part of students' grades on the report card. Students in grades 2-8 participate in the program. You will learn more about this in your grade level meeting at the beginning of the year.

Q. What is Science Fair? Who participates in it?

A. Students in the 7th & 8th grades participate annually in the Science Fair, individually or in groups to pursue the exploration of the scientific method and a hypothesis of their choice. The students develop their work to the final product of a research paper and a display board or project. Along with a grade from the teacher, the student work is judged and winning projects go on to participation at the Diocesan Science Fair.

Q. What is Invention Convention? When do the children participate?

A. Invention Convention is a great learning experience under the auspices of the science program at St. Anne and many other schools. In grade 4 and 5, students are encouraged to pursue the “invention” of a new idea. They work individually or in pairs and follow guidelines prescribed for the project. Student projects are judged and those placing at the school level go on to participate in district competition with other students.

Q. Do we take the TAKS or is this for public schools only?

A. No, St. Anne students do not take the TAKS test to assess academic progress. We will administer Achievement test each fall semester and the children and parents receive results as soon as results are received at school.

Results of achievement tests are not used to “promote or hold-back” a student. They can be a help to the teachers and parents in working with the child toward greater accomplishments. The teachers find the results extremely helpful as they set goals for the year.

Q. What do D.O.L., D.O.G., and D.O.M. stand for?

A. Answering specifically, it means “Daily Oral Language,” “Daily Oral Geography,” and “Daily Oral Math.” These are the practice questions to help the student master the use of proper grammar, punctuation, verb tense, etc., geography and math skills by daily practice. Usually, the teacher puts work on the chalkboard and the children have a special spiral notebook to practice and work on these skills as one of the first tasks of the day.

Q. What happens if my child loses a library book or turns a book in late?

A. A fine of 5 cents per day is charged for a book not turned in on time. If a student loses a book, he or she must pay for it. Students with overdue library books for fines owed will not receive report cards until the library record is cleared. If a book is returned in damaged condition, then the student must pay for the replacement of the book.

Q. When can my child go to the library?

A. The library is open during the school day from 7:30 am until 3:30 pm. Teachers schedule library times for their classes on a weekly basis.

Q. What is PSIA?

A. P.S.I.A. has become a very familiar acronym at St. Anne School for students in grades 1-8. In the spring of each year, the Private Schools Interscholastic Association sponsors competition for students in private schools in various areas of study such as creative writing, ready writing, art, mathematics, number sense, spelling, storytelling, dictionary skills, listening, maps/charts/graphs, calculator applications, science, prose/poetry interpretation, visual arts, modern oratory, and impromptu speaking. Teachers and parent coaches begin working with students in the fall. At a district level, St. Anne students compete against other students and those placing first or second in their contest, go on to participate in state competition. Students are selected to participate in the PSIA competition by the teachers, and they practice and prepare prior to participating.

In this and other competitions, we have found that our students can successfully compete academically and rank among the top ten large private schools in the state. In 2007, St. Anne earned a 3rd place state ranking.

Q. What is Picture Lady?

A. The Picture Lady program is a wonderful experience for our students in grades K-4. The program is designed to teach art appreciation. The children “experience” art through the wonderful design and plans of the program’s director and the many volunteers affectionately called “Picture Ladies.”

About four times a year, the volunteer Picture Lady visits the classroom and conducts a lesson on an artist and his or her works. The students learn about the artist’s birth, life, and death. They then take an active part in an experience that brings to life the artist and the predominate medium of his/her works. The students greatly enjoy the experiences of this program and look forward to the “Picture Lady” days. Volunteers are needed for each classroom of grades K to 4, and you will have a chance to sign-up to offer your help during the “Meet-the- Teacher Day.” You do not need to be an artist to volunteer; just be interested in participating in a unique learning experience.

The National Catholic Educational Association honored St. Anne School with the Parent Partnership Award in 1996 for the Picture Lady Program.

About Pre-Kindergarten

Q. Does St. Anne have pre-kindergarten?

A. St. Anne has a 4-year old pre-kindergarten class. Students must be four by September 1.

Pre-kindergarten is a full time program. However, if after discussing an individual need with the principal, some exceptions may be made to shorten a child's day. Pre-K students wear St. Anne uniforms. They attend Mass with upper-grade buddies beginning in February of the second semester.

Pre-K students will snack during the day. Parents are asked to provide these snacks. Parents may bring birthday snacks to share with the entire class.

About Kindergarten

Q. Starting kindergarten is such a big step. I don't know where to start to ask a question!

A. We all understand what you are going through. Remember, we all walked in your shoes at one time too. This book is one way we hope to help you through this exciting and challenging time.

Additionally, the kindergarten teachers have a special book just for kindergarten parents to help answer your questions. Read it, too, and keep it for ready-reference. These teachers are accustomed to helping new families make this transition and are happy to help you with answers to your questions whenever they can.

Q. What are 8th Grade Buddies? And why do we have them?

A. Kindergarten students are each assigned a "Buddy" who is an eighth grader. This special friend is with them when they attend Mass at the beginning of school. They sit together, and the eighth grader is there to remind the kindergartner of good behavior and what to do during the celebration of Mass.

There are other occasions during the year when the two Buddies get together for fun. They have traditionally celebrated Easter together with an egg hunt and party. You might also see this special friendship demonstrated all through the year with hugs, waves, and smiles around the school.

Q. When is kindergarten graduation?

A. Actually, we do not call our end-of-year event for kindergarten “graduation.” We call this big culmination a “Kindergarten Celebration.” It is held in May, no sooner than 5 school days before the last school day. The official date will be on the school calendar of events as it is certainly a day you don’t want to miss!

Parents, grandparents, and close relatives attend and applaud the children as they are called one-by-one to receive their congratulations on completing a successful year. Refreshments follow and ample photo opportunities are available. Plan to come if you are a kindergarten parent!

Q. What is the “goodie box” my child talks about?

A. Rewards are great motivators and the kindergarten teachers, as well as some others, really believe in providing motivation for their students. Many choose to use a “goodie box” or a surprise box by some other name. The child is allowed to visit the box and select a special “treat” for meeting some class standard or goal. Ranging from behavior to reading, each goal is an important step toward the end of completing a successful year, and the teachers love to offer rewards to encourage continued achievement.

Usually the items in the “goodie box” have been provided by the teacher from her personal resources. If you have the opportunity to add to her box with special fun items, she would welcome your help. You might want to check with her about what types of things she most likes to include, but some great things are usually pencils, stickers, tiny pocket games, small candies, etc.

Q. Do kindergarten students have snacks?

A. Kindergarten students do have snacks. Parents will be asked to provide these snacks.

Parents may bring birthday snacks to share with the entire class. Make sure to get the teacher’s permission first.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten also have an additional handbook of information pertaining just to those two grade levels. Please refer to it for more detailed information.

About Extracurricular Learning & Activities

Q. My child wants to play sports. How do I learn about tryouts?

A. St. Anne participates in a number of sports for both boys and girls. Refer to the *Parent/Student Handbook* for what sports and the grade levels involved as it varies from sport to sport.

Tryouts are announced by the coaches, and students will learn about when they will be held by listening to the school announcements. Students must have a physical exam by a physician, and parents must complete a consent statement before the student will be allowed to try out. When selected to play team sports, an athletic fee of \$35 is assessed.

Q. What is the St. Anne's Spirit Club or Booster Club?

A. The Spirit Club or Booster Club is a supportive body for the athletic department and all sport teams. Spirit Club parents are involved and assist with gate admission, concessions, travel, equipment – and every aspect of the program except coaching!

Q. When can my child start playing in the band? When is the class?

A. The band program was started in 1998 and has grown by leaps and bounds. Students may first join band in the sixth grade and continue through eighth grade. Actually, there are two bands: one for 6th grade students called Beginner Band and the Concert Band is for 7th and 8th graders. The classes are held as one of the student's electives, and are scheduled in the morning. Parents should expect that band students will be required to attend some evening performances, such as Christmas, an end-of-year program, a HSA meeting and sometimes athletic events.

There is an additional cost involved for a student to be in the band. It is approximately \$35, and it is paid at the start of the school year.

Q. How does my child join the Honor Choir? When do they practice?

A. Honor Choir is an extracurricular activity for students in grades 4 to 6. It is open to any child who enjoys singing and participating in special ways at the school. Honor Choir takes a predominate role in the school's religious events such as the Living Rosary, May Crowning, and Holy Day Masses. They also usually have a Christmas and end-of-year program. There is no cost involved in this activity, and the students have a great time lifting their voices in song and lifting the hearts of the audience. Practice is held after school one day a week, usually on Tuesday.

Q. When are cheerleader tryouts? How does my child get involved in cheerleading?

A. Good question. We do not really have tryouts for our cheerleading squad. Girls who have met the grade requirements are eligible to become a cheerleader. Once a girl is a cheerleader, there are a number of requirements to be met. The student must attend practices, meetings, and cheerleader camp during the summer, usually held in June. Girls must attend a 5-day practice session preceding the summer cheer camp. Practices and meetings are also held after school and on occasional weekends during the school year. Of course, attendance at assigned games (all home and some away games) is important and required.

There is cost involved with being a cheerleader. Parents will be invited to a meeting where this will be explained and consent forms made available.

Refer to the *Parent/Student Handbook* for specific requirements.



Q. What is the Student Council? When does my child get involved in it?

A. Student Council is a group of students, grades five through eight, who are elected by their peers to represent them in this body. They work with the school administration to promote school activities and carry out many programs and projects. Each homeroom of fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades holds an election during the month of September to select a representative and an alternate to this group. Holding office is reserved for eighth graders who run in the election held in the spring of the seventh grade. Members and officers are required to maintain good grades and meet attendance requirements as stated in the *Handbook*. Students in 5th-8th grades may choose to be involved and be part of the club.

Q. What is Kumon Math?

A. Students in all grade levels may avail themselves of Kumon Math twice a week after school. Since its beginning in the fifties, the Kumon Math learning method has introduced students to an arithmetic and math learning method that does more than build self-confidence and self-pride. It teaches arithmetic and mathematics in a way that enables each student to discover a previously unknown sense of joy and fun in achieving

success. Kumon students advance in their math studies only when they have mastered the previous level of study. The results are improved self-confidence, enhanced concentration, and a greater sense of satisfaction--important components in acquiring a strong foundation in basic math skills.

Kumon is offered at St. Anne but is an independent business enterprise. Please contact Kumon directly for more information.

Q. My child wants to be in scouting? How do we join?

A. St. Anne can boast of many students involved in the scouting program. From kindergarten age on up, there are opportunities for both boys and girls in the various levels of the scouting program.

There will be sign-up for those who might want to learn more about getting involved. Additionally, there will be information sent home about informational meetings for parents.



About School Events & Organizations

Q. What and when is “Meet-the-Teacher Day”?

A. The first day of school is considered “Meet-the-Teacher Day.” Depending upon grade level, students and parents come to school to meet the teacher(s) and get the year off to a great start. Students will wear uniforms, and get prepared for the year. Parents come at staggered times for class meetings to learn about procedures and practices for the new school year and the grade their son or daughter is beginning.

Q. When are school dances? Who attends? Who chaperones?

A. Several times a year the school sponsors a dance. These are for only junior high students (7th and 8th grades). They are held on campus, in the cafeteria, with class parents and the faculty as adult chaperones. Usually there is a charge for admission.

Q. What is the “Welcome Picnic?”

A. Sometimes this is called the “Welcome Picnic” and some call it the “Back-to-School Picnic” or even the “Buddy Family Picnic.” Whatever it is called, it is a wonderful occasion when practically 100% of our school community comes together to enjoy a picnic supper and visit with one another. Sponsored by the School Board, it is a time to welcome our new families and to see returning friends again after the summer break.

Q. What is Bingo Dinner Night?

A. Bingo Night is an annual event held in conjunction with other events of the carnival for the entire family. A casual dinner is served and then everyone plays bingo for monetary prizes. It is usually held the Thursday before the Carnival. Watch for a confirmation of the date and how to purchase tickets. You don’t want to miss out on this one!

Q. When is Open House? Should I attend?

A. Our first informal time together will actually be on the evening of the first day of school, just before the Welcome Picnic hosted by our School Board that evening. The student can escort their parent to show them their new classroom and show them exactly where they will be sitting, working on the SMART board, putting their folders, etc. It will be fun for all.

Another Open House will probably be scheduled during Catholic Schools Week too. Watch for details on that.

Q. When are “early dismissal days?” Why do we have them?

A. Early dismissal days are normally the day before a major holiday, such as the Wednesday before Thanksgiving will be and early or Noon dismissal. As always, watch the school calendar and read the on-line news.

Q. What is the Carnival all about? Who receives the proceeds from it? Who puts it on?

A. The annual Halloween Carnival is quite a tradition at the school. This is an event of the Home and School Association and is put on by the entire school community. It is always held the Saturday immediately preceding Halloween.

The profits from the carnival, along with that of other Home and School fundraising efforts, are combined to become a large gift presented to the school on an annual basis for the general operating budget. Carnival and Dinner Auction funds are transferred into the next year’s operating budget. The amount of tuition charged does not cover the full cost of a child’s education. No matter the level of tuition being paid on the sliding scale that we use, the costs still exceed the tuition. Therefore, it is imperative that we have fundraisers like the Carnival to make the budget balance. We can either all help with fundraising, or we can raise tuition. Fundraising is lots more fun too!

Everyone gets involved in the Carnival effort in some way or another. **In fact, it is expected that each student will have a parent work at least one hour on the day of the event.** That is to say, if you have one child you should work one hour. If you have three children, you should work three hours, etc.

Watch for information in the on-line Wildcat Weekly and lots of Carnival information that is sent out about a month before the event. Your participation in whatever way you can is needed and very much appreciated.

Q. When is Catholic School Week, and what takes place during it?

A. Catholic Schools Week is a great celebration of all the Catholic schools in the United States and held the last week of January and/or the first week of February. Each school sets up some of its own celebrations during the week. Others, like Rainbow Mass (see separate question/answer), are a Diocesan-wide celebration. During this week, St. Anne includes a day to celebrate Teacher Appreciation, Student Appreciation, and more. We always want to involve our parents and grandparents too. Watch the *Wildcat Weekly* for a list of activities and events and how your student and your family can be involved.

Q. Why do we have book fairs? Do parents go to them?

A. Book fairs are a great way to both encourage the students to read more outside their class assignments and hold a fundraiser for the school. Parents are encouraged to come by the fairs and shop for some special titles for your child or for gift items. The proceeds from the sales directly help the library to acquire additional books.

Q. Is there a special day for grandparents?

A. During Catholic Schools Week, we plan a special day for Grandparents to come and enjoy visiting a grandson or granddaughter's classroom to see a book report presentation or another special assignment.

Additionally, during the week of the book fair, the Library sponsors a special day when grandparents are invited to some do a little shopping with their favorite students, eat lunch with their grandchildren, and visit the classrooms.

Q. What are Field Days?

A. Everyone will agree that the end of the school year deserves a celebration, and that is what Field Day is all about. On a day near the end of May, the classes celebrate the end of a successful school year with a picnic and day of fun in Gilbert Park, adjacent to campus. Field Day was a tradition-of-old at St. Anne School, revived as a “new” tradition in 1998. We hope it will continue for many years as it allows several classes to come together for a day of fun, relaxation, and celebration of the year’s successes.

Usually Pre-k, kindergarten, and 1st grade have Field Day in the morning; and that same day, grades 2-4 have an afternoon of fun. Grades 5-7 plan special end-of-the year activities. You will receive information through your teacher about these plans. This is another time when parents can become involved with their child’s class. Parents are needed to help in many aspects from setting-up to working various fun events and activities during the day. Even if you cannot help, parents are invited to come have lunch with their child and enjoy the celebration. Try to come and have fun!

Q. Do the students take school pictures?

A. Yes, each fall, usually in September, a photographer comes to campus to take students’ individual photos. Students wear uniforms. Packages of the photos may be purchased by parents at the time of the sitting, and they are sent home with the students about a month later. The school is provided a copy of the photo for inclusion in the school yearbook.

During the spring, we have another “picture day.” The students wear uniforms and we take class photos, and students may purchase these.

Q. We have a Golf Tournament? When?

A. St. Anne does have an annual golf tournament as another fund-raising event of the Home and School Association. Usually held in the spring at a local course, this event attracts those interested in the sport as well as those who just enjoy a good time following and “caddying.” Income is generated from the fee that teams pay to play, hole sponsorships, and other underwriting and donations. If you or your business might sponsor a team or underwrite a hole, watch for announcements and call the appropriate person. They will love to have your support and participation. It’s lots of fun!

Q. What is the Home and School Association? When do they meet?

A. The Home and School Association is the organization that many people at other schools would call their PTA. The purpose of the HSA is to aid the school in all aspects of its work; to be a forum for discussions, to provide informational programs, to raise money and to create a deeper and deeper appreciation for Catholic education, especially at St. Anne Catholic School.

Every parent and/or guardian of a child in attendance at the school is a member of the HSA. The organization functions with a council of officers who handle daily and routine matters. A calendar of scheduled meeting dates will be provided to all parents at the beginning of the year. Activities of the association include the annual carnival, golf tournament, the uniform sale and exchange, and the annual teacher appreciation luncheon, to name a few.

It has been proven that children perform better in school when the parent is actively involved and participating in the educational process. Involvement in the HSA is certainly a great way for every parent to be involved and active.

Q. Do we have Pep Rallies? If so, when and where? Who can attend?

A. On several occasions during the year the cheerleaders plan Pep Rallies to lead the student body’s support for an upcoming athletic season, sport, or a particular game. They are held in the gymnasium on a date and at a time announced to the students. Pep Rallies will also be put on the school calendar and you will normally find that they are scheduled on the last Monday of the month which we refer to as Spirit Days. All grades attend and parents are always welcome.

Q. Who makes up the School Board? What do they do? When and where do they meet?

A. People just like you make up the School Board! In 2007, NCEA awarded our School Board the prestigious honor of “Outstanding School Board,” recognizing participation and contributions of our Board members throughout the years.

Those interested in serving in this capacity are invited to attend “Discernment.” The responsibilities and functions of the board are explained thoroughly and the new members are discerned for a two-year term.

The School Board is responsible for developing and adopting policies for the school; approving the annual budget for the operation of the school; and consulting on the hiring of a school principal when that becomes necessary. Additionally, the board is actively involved in some aspects of the school’s activities such as the traditional Welcome Back Picnic in August.

The School Board is not charged with handling disputes or disagreements between administration, parents, and/or teachers. Those matters are handled on a personal basis by the administration and should be addressed there for resolution.

About Financial Matters

Q. How do I pay my tuition to the school? What is FACTS?

A. FACTS is a Tuition Management System, managed by a corporation separate from the school, which handles our tuition payments. Payments are drafted from your financial account, or you may make a lump-sum payment before school begins. FACTS accounts may be accessed on the Internet. If payments are late, a late fee is assessed.

Q. I am confused about making payments to the school for things other than tuition, like book orders and donations. How do I do this?

A. This is difficult to answer in general terms because there are so many variables.

Many items the school sells now are done through our on-line Sales Center, which links through the website’s Parent link and page. You will find menus for t-shirts, sweatshirts, Carnival shirts, school supplies and lunch ordering and more. Through this site you can pay by credit card or send a check to school, made payable to St. Anne. Please remember to mark the memo line with the reason for your payment.

There are other times when you need to send money to the school and the information sent with the request will tell you specifically how to make out your check. For example, the information about taking pictures will tell you to make your check out to the photographer (like Provine Studios). A teacher may give you the opportunity to purchase books from a book order form. He-she will tell you to make the check to the company (like Scholastic or Troll). On the other hand, donations to the carnival or fees for a field trip are to be sent made out to St. Anne Catholic School.

The best answer to your question is to tell you to carefully read the information that comes with the request. If you still have a question, call the school and ask.

Q. What is the Annual Appeal? Why is the Annual Appeal necessary?

A. An annual fund is a yearly effort to raise the funds necessary to adequately meet the immediate needs of the school in that budget year. In other words, the annual appeal helps to “make the ends meet” when talking about the income versus expenses of the year. All gifts, large or small, are graciously accepted.

The Annual Appeal is necessary because, to begin with, tuition income is not adequate to meet the expenses of the school, and the “gifts and donations” category of the budget is fluid at best. The amount of tuition charged to parents/guardians is far less than the actual cost of educating the student. Our tuition scale gives all certified Catholic families in categories some discount.

When the budget is prepared in February of one year, it is impossible to foresee the urgent and unexpected repairs that arise during the year or the other factors that affect either the anticipated income or expenses. The addition of an Annual Appeal gives us the ability to meet the budgetary needs of the school as well as continuing the progress and success that has been a part of St. Anne history.

Q. Does St. Anne provide financial assistance?

A. The tuition scale provides assistance by providing some discount to families. It may be possible to gain additional assistance in some circumstances. The FACTS website provides information for additional grant requests.

Q. What other fees are charged?

A. Each family pays a one-time new family fee of \$300. Additionally, there is a yearly registration fee per child of approximately \$260. Band and athletics have a minimal fee charged at the beginning of each school year when the student participates.

Do you have a suggestion or a question that was not included?

Please tear out this page and return it to the school to help us improve this book for families and future editions. Thank you.

My question is:

The answer I did not understand is:

My suggestion for improvement of this publication is:

Your name: _____

Your phone numbers: _____ or _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS.