



Dear CCD Families,

Welcome back to a new CCD school year! Classes begin on September 6, 2017, 6:30-7:30pm. We will start in the basement Cafeteria of the school for a mandatory Parent/student meeting. After the short meeting, teachers will be introduced and students/parents will be dismissed to follow their teacher up to their new classroom for a short Teacher parents meeting, explaining what will be happening during the year in the classroom. If you have multiple students enrolled in different grade levels we suggest sticking with the younger students first and then popping in the older students classrooms to pick up the necessary information/papers. While the first half of the night is more like an open house, the second half will be CCD class as usual so student will be asked to stay for the remainder of the time and will be released at 7:30pm!

Drop-Off/Pick- Up

Just a quick reminder that when you are dropping of children please be aware of the children in the parking lot. Do NOT pull up to the front doors on the parking lot to drop off or pick up your student! You can park and walk your child to the front doors or drop them off from the street by pulling up to the curb. If you are dropping them off from the street make sure they exit the car from the sidewalk side and not the street side of the vehicle!

The only doors that students should be using to enter and exit the building are the doors on the parking lot, all other doors are prohibited to exit out off for safety reasons.

Volunteer Requirements

The Diocese of Peoria has many policies in place in order to provide safety for all the children in our care. If you want to volunteer or help out in the school setting, even just one time, you must complete the four components listed below:

- 1) Attend a "Safe environment" workshop held with the St. Joseph Community.
- 2) ("Safe Environment" used to be called "Protecting God's Children". If you participated in "Protecting God's Children" you will not have to take "Safe Environment")
- 2) Complete a form to have the Department of Children and Family Services do a background check. Just stop in the office and we will give you the form to complete and return to the office. The forms must be sent in from the office and returned to the office to be valid. There is no cost for this section.
- 3) Be fingerprinted by the Illinois State Police. Part of your registration fee pays for this process. You may schedule an appointment with the Tazewell County Police Station for any Thursday evening. Please make sure you take the form from the office to the appointment.
- 4) Complete the three driving courses on the Catholic Mutual website and turn in the certificates to the school office.

There is no cost for this section.

Before you can volunteer or help in any capacity this school year, you must first have all components. We go through this whole process because the children are our most valuable assets in the school. Thank you for volunteering your time!



Electronic Handbook

The Handbook and schedule will be available electronically on the St. Joseph Catholic Church Website under Religious Education on September 5, 2017. We will have schedule available at the parent meeting but will not be passing out a handbook to every family, but some hard copies will be available at the parent meeting for those who need one, or you can contact Anna McMahan at the parish center and I can get a hard copy for you.

Please take time to read through the handbook with your children.

Religious Education Exam

Students begin preparing for Confirmation in 7th and 8th grade, and one of the requirements are that they will take a Confirmation Test that is 90-100 questions. In order to be better prepared for such test we will be implementing a test at every grade level. The younger grades will be multiple choice and start off with only a handful of questions, building on the basic questions each year until they reach the Confirmation Test!

I have made it very clear to my teachers that they are NOT supposed to **teach** the test. Because we have written the test ourselves and it is based around what they already teach. Students will be given the test in advance so they can review them at home with parents. If your student has test taking anxiety or has problems reading please let the teacher and myself know and we will work something out.

The test is not meant to be a punishment, or to hold students back, but rather to help them build upon their education so when they reach 7th/8th grade they are not shocked with such a large test. Gradually building on the test each year, students will begin to memorize the core beliefs of our faith and be more prepared for the "real world" after they are confirmed and done with CCD!

Living Rosary

On October 11th we will be having a Living Rosary in the Gymnasium at 6:45, Families are invited to join our students as we pray the Rosary during the 40 Days of Life campaign. This is also important Rosary because we will be celebrating the 100 Year anniversary of Fatima!

The Catechist have been working very hard preparing for the new CCD school year and they are very excited to meet their classes. We cannot wait to see everyone's smiling faces on Wednesday! If you have any question please feel free to email me or give me a call at the parish center 347-6108. Thank you and have a great week!

God Bless,

Anna McMahan D.R.E.