



## St. Rita of Cascia Catholic School

### “We Are All God’s Children”

July, 2017

Dear St. Rita School Family,

With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July behind us, it seems like summer is moving along quickly! We are experiencing a very warm, very wet summer. I hope that the children are having some fun in the sun. Summer is a good time to relax from some of the busy schedules of school and homework. Teachers need time away too. I hope they are getting a well-deserved rest. It will all start again on Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> with the first day of the 2017-18 school year.

For our returning families, you may remember that last year our school theme was “Gathered Together as God’s Family.” Pope Francis states, “I think first of families, which are called to a primary and vital mission of education. Families are the first place where the values of love and fraternity, togetherness and sharing, concern and care for others are lived out and handed on.” (12/8/15, Peace) That theme was chosen to remind us that we are all called to celebrate the sacred mystery of our faith together through the celebration of the mass, prayer and service. As a community, we are called to live in harmony and peace and to show respect for all. This is not always easy to remember to practice and something we must work each day to do.

This year we will continue that vision through the theme **“We Are All God’s Children.”** A school becomes a true community when it creates an atmosphere where all people are valued. We want to emphasize that kindness and respect are extremely important to creating a safe, school environment. Remember the saying from childhood, ‘Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.’ We know that isn’t true, words can hurt. The world is overwhelming all of us with negative words and ideas.

The beauty of a Catholic school is that we can continue to spread the Good News that God loves us all, He created us in His image – to love one another. “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1 is to be read with excitement! Knowing you are loved by God isn't something you should take for granted, you should exalt in it and cry out to the world, "My God loves me!"

I know that it is usually one parent who reads the letter, but I think it would be a good idea to share it as a family. Read it to the children so that together we are working on the same mission. Remind them that their parents and teachers are also God’s children and deserve to be spoken to with kind words.

On a personal note, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our St. Rita School families for your kind support during this difficult time with my husband’s passing. My extended family members were so impressed by the many parents, students, alumni, and staff that came to express your sympathy and share fond memories of Rod. The liturgy was beautiful with the musical gifts of Mr. Orland, Mrs. Hiltenbrand, Mrs. Maysonett, alumnus Sarah Phipps and the students who were present. A special word of thanks to our teachers, staff and Home & School officers who generously set up, served, and cleaned up the luncheon.

Sincerely,



We want to welcome home all of our returning students families, faculty and staff. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

In addition, we welcome home Mrs. Meagan Koehler, who will rejoin our faculty at a new position in the middle school teaching language arts.



Welcome to all of our new students and families who will join our St. Rita Family.

**A special word of welcome to Mrs. Diana Nazeer, who will be our new first grade teacher.** I know she is looking forward to meeting her new class and families. She has met a number of our faculty and we look forward to working with her this year.

These are some special dates to put on your calendar:

**Tuesday, August 15**

Book Day 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
See the Information Sheets included for details

**Friday, August 18**

**Preschool & Kindergarten Open House**

9:00 AM

Our Preschool students and parents are invited to visit the classroom and meet Mrs. Peterson. They will have the chance to meet their new classmates. Mrs. Peterson will go over some important information about drop off and give an overview of the schedule.

Our Kindergarten students and parents are invited to visit the classroom and meet Mrs. Bracke. They will have the chance to meet their new classmates. Mrs. Bracke will go over some important classroom routines. Students are welcome to bring any school supplies that you would like to drop off.

**Monday, August 21**

**“Meet and Greet”– 3:30-5:30 PM Grades Preschool-Gr.8**

**5 B’s Back to School Barbeque 4:00-6:00 All are welcome!**

Come get a peek at your new classroom and meet your teacher before the big first day of school. Parents and students are invited to visit classrooms anytime during the Meet and Greet event. Teachers will be available to welcome parents and students and answer any procedural questions you or your child may have. The Teacher Meet and Greet was created to ease students' "First day of school jitters," and provide them with some peace of mind to know where their classroom is located and to meet their teacher. You are welcome to bring any school supplies that you would like to drop off to make their backpacks a little lighter on the first day.

# Welcome to the 2017-18 School Year at St. Rita ...

The first day of school begins at 8:30 on Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> for grades Preschool-8. There WILL be bus service. Students will dismiss at 3:15.

School hours are: 8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.  
Students should be dropped off in the back lot @8:20-8:30

**BUS:** Service will begin on the first day of school. Students must live within the boundaries for District 129 and live 1.5 miles or more (or in a hazardous location) to be eligible for bus service. Eligible families will receive bus information in the mail from District 129 West Aurora Transportation Department prior to the start of school.

**LUNCH/MILK:** All full day students need to bring a lunch and drink from August 23<sup>rd</sup> thru August 31<sup>st</sup>. The school lunch program will begin on Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Teachers for the coming year and their homeroom assignments:

Preschool	Mrs. Stacey Peterson
Kindergarten	Mrs. Cathleen Bracke
First Grade	Mrs. Diana Nazeer
Second Grade	Mrs. Ann Vose
Third Grade	Mrs. Susan Pietrie
Fourth Grade	Mrs. Kim Davis
Fifth Grade	Mrs. Robbie King
Sixth Grade	Mrs. Carolyn Schmidt
Seventh Grade	Mrs. Kerry Koeberl
Eighth Grade	Mrs. Jennifer Guzauskas
Jr. High	Mrs. Meagan Koehler
Computers/Assistant Principal	Mrs. Mary Rockwood
Art	Mrs. Rose Leden
Music	Mr. Rob Orland
Physical Education	Mr. Dave Bieker
Library	Mrs. Debbie Orłowski
Morning Extended Day & Aide	Mrs. Mary Beth Friel
School Bookkeeper	Mrs. Janet Harner
Principal's Secretary	Mrs. Teresa Droeske
Principal	Mrs. Elizabeth Faxon

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:** The school office will be open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 - 12:00. The office will be closed the morning of August 15<sup>th</sup> to prepare for Book Day.

If you have any questions or want to schedule an appointment, please leave a message on our school answering machine at 630/892-0200.

**NEW FAMILIES:** To apply for parish membership, you may contact the parish office at 630-892-5918 or visit the parish website at [www.saintritaofcascia.org](http://www.saintritaofcascia.org). You may also contact Mrs. Droeske for assistance.

**BOOK DAY:**

Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 6:00 downstairs in the Lunchroom

The school office will be CLOSED in the morning.

Book fees are due on or before that day. Please pay by check or cash. (Checks deposited August 17<sup>th</sup>)

August tuition payment is due to SMART TUITION by the monthly due date.

Class lists will be posted.

Home & School will hold a uniform resale.

Orders will be taken for the lunch program, school uniform sweatshirts, and gym uniforms.

Assignment notebooks, rulers, and bibles will be sold.

All physical and health records along with birth and baptismal certificates are due.

Sports committee members will be in attendance to answer questions.

**BOOK FEES:**

The Book Fee is \$200.00 per student in grades K-8.

**SMART TUITION PROGRAM:**

ALL families will be on the ten month payment plan for the 2017-18 school year.

Each payment is due NO later than the predetermined due date each month.

***A late fee will be added for payments made after the due date, per SMART TUITION.***

**TUITION RATES:**

	PARISH RATE:	NON-PARISH RATE:
1 child	\$365.00 per month	\$475.00 per month
2 children	\$520.00 per month	\$655.00 per month
3 children	\$640.00 per month	\$780.00 per month
4 children	\$745.00 per month	\$880.00 per month
PreSchool	\$300.00 per month	\$300.00 per month

PreSchool tuition payments are made directly to St. Rita School.

**HEALTH:**

Preschool, Kindergarten and Sixth grade students must have a physical exam and up to date immunizations.

All new students must show evidence of their last physical exam. If you are not in compliance, your student may be excluded from attending classes.

Students entering Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades must have proof of a dental exam or waiver.

All Kindergarten students and any student in grades 1-8 entering an Illinois school for the first time must have an eye exam or waiver.

**SPORTS PHYSICALS:**

All students in grade 5, 7 & 8 must submit a current sports physical at the first practice.

Sports physicals should be given to the student's coach or Athletic Director.

6<sup>th</sup> grade students must have a school physical which will also cover sports. 6<sup>th</sup> grade physicals should be given to the school office personnel.

**EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM:**

The first day of the program will be Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Those families who would like to enroll in the Extended Day Program should register on Book Day.

The hours for Extended Day are 7:00 a.m. - 8:20 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Fees must be paid weekly.

Late fees will be charged if you are late picking up your student.

There is no PM Extended Day on the last day of school before Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and ALL early dismissal days.

**2017-18 (subject to revision)**  
**St. Rita of Cascia Catholic School**

The school uniform is a means to help students maintain a neat appearance and to prevent any distinction between students. The school uniform should be worn with respect and a matter of school pride. It is a matter of fairness for all families to honor the school uniform guide. Please refer to this list when you shop during the summer or school year.

**SHOES**

ALL STUDENTS (boys & girls) Dress shoes - BLACK leather or leather like only.

Girls (K-4) must have a strap on the shoe (Mary Jane style) or a tie closure, flat with no heels. Not gym shoe.

Girls (5-8) and boys K-8 may wear a tie shoe or slip on style. Not gym shoe.

**SOCKS:**

**Girls: all girls must wear knee high length socks** in solid navy blue or white

Girls: may wear tights in navy blue or white

Boys: must have a crew length sock in black, navy blue or white, NO SHOWS are NOT allowed

**Uniform Company:** Schoolbelles 1-888-637-3037 [www.schoolbelles.com](http://www.schoolbelles.com) CODE: S1516

Plaid items must come from Schoolbelles Uniform Co.

Green polo shirts must be purchased through Schoolbelles.

**White blouses for girls K-4 must be purchased through Schoolbelles -**

**BLACK LEATHER BELTS only** must be worn with loop pants or shorts for boys or girls

**GIRLS (Gr. K-4)**

Plaid jumper (KNEE LENGTH)

**White cotton cloth blouse with peter pan collar purchased through Schoolbelles.**

Navy blue pants or KNEE LENGTH shorts with official St. Rita green knit polo.

**GIRLS (Gr. 5-8) Note: ALL SKIRTS/SKORTS**

2 pleat plaid skirt or skort (KNEE LENGTH) with St. Rita green knit polo must be purchased through Schoolbelles.

Navy blue pants or KNEE LENGTH blue shorts with official St. Rita green knit polo

**BOYS (Gr. K-8)**

Navy blue pants or KNEE LENGTH shorts with St. Rita official green polo.

**SWEATSHIRTS:** Green or Navy Blue with Cross emblem sold through Home & School Association.

**JEWELRY:** Boys & Girls may wear a watch, girls may wear one pair of post earrings (no hoops)  
Religious medals or crosses may be worn inside clothing. NO other jewelry is allowed.

**HAIR/MAKE-UP** Hair should be neatly groomed and trimmed. No dyed, highlighted, bleached or tinted hair. For boys the hair should not touch the collar, eyebrows or the ears. It should be evenly tapered. For all students, hair must not fall in their eyes. No make-up or nail polish. No scented products or aftershave. No scented hair gels.

**OTHER:** **Headbands must be hunter green, navy blue or white only. Hair accessories (such as flowers) are NOT permitted.**

**GYM:**

Gym uniform purchased at school; separate pair of gym shoes for PE use only.

Gym bag with zip or drawstring closing. First grade students only need to purchase gym shorts.

First grade students need a pair of Velcro closing gym shoes for PE use.

Preschool and Kindergarten students only need a separate pair of Velcro closing gym shoes for PE use only. Students in grades 5-8 must have deodorant for gym.

**UNIFORM SHORTS:** may be worn from the first day of the school year until Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> and from May 1<sup>st</sup> until the last day of the school year.

## St. Rita of Cascia School Calendar – 2017-2018 (dates subject to change)

Tuesday, August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Book Day - 1:00 - 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall
Monday, August 21 <sup>st</sup>	Teacher Meet & Greet – all grades @3:30 – 5:30 – 5 Bs BBQ fundraiser
Friday, August 18 <sup>th</sup>	Open House for Preschool & Kindergarten @9:00 am
Wednesday, August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	First day of school with bus service – 8:30 – 3:15
Wednesday, August 30 <sup>th</sup>	Back to School Night for parents of students in Grades 6-8 @6:30 pm
Monday, September 4 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
Wednesday, September 6 <sup>th</sup>	Back to School Night for parents of students in Grades PK -5 @6:30 pm
Wednesday, September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Fall School pictures for all students. This is a “dress up” day
Friday, September 15 <sup>th</sup>	11:30 DISMISSAL – Bus Service TO school ONLY. VIP Day
Monday – Friday, Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	ITBS Testing
Thursday, October 5 <sup>th</sup>	St. Rita Walk-a-Thon in the afternoon – This is 1 <sup>st</sup> of 2 mandatory fundraisers
Friday & Monday, October 6 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL – Diocesan Institute Day & Columbus Day
Tuesday, October 10 <sup>th</sup>	No Bus Service
Thursday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	11:30 DISMISSAL - Bus Service TO school ONLY – Parent/Teacher Conferences
<b>Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
Wednesday - Friday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Doors of Christmas @5:45-6:15 pm & Christmas Concert @6:30 pm in Church
December 22 <sup>nd</sup> – January 5 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break - Classes resume on Monday, January 8 <sup>th</sup>
Monday, January 15 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Wednesday January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Pictures ALL students & 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Graduation Pictures. This is a Dress Up Day
January 28 <sup>th</sup> – February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Catholic Schools Week
Friday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11:30 DISMISSAL – Bus Service TO school ONLY No Afternoon Extended Day – Teacher Institute
Friday, February 16 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL – Teacher Retreat
Monday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL – President’s Day
Tuesday, February 20 <sup>th</sup>	No Bus Service
Friday, March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	No Bus Service
Friday, March 16 <sup>th</sup>	11:30 DISMISSAL – Bus Service TO school ONLY – Teacher Institute
Monday – Wednesday, March 26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	No Bus Service
Thursday, March 29 <sup>th</sup>	11:30 DISMISSAL – Bus Service TO school ONLY – Teacher Institute
Friday, March 30 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	No School – Easter & Spring Break – Classes resume on Monday, April 9 <sup>th</sup>
Friday, May 4 <sup>th</sup>	11:30 DISMISSAL – Bus Service TO school ONLY – Teacher Institute
Friday, May 11 <sup>th</sup>	No Bus Service
Thursday, May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Concert @6:30 pm in Church
Tuesday, May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bus Service TO school ONLY
Wednesday, May 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday, June 1 <sup>st</sup>	No Bus Service
Friday, May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day for Preschool 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation @7:00 pm in Church
Monday, May 28 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Kindergarten Graduation @ 10:00 am in Church – Last day for Kindergarten
Friday, June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Last Day of School for grades 1-7

	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grades 6, 7 &
#2 pencils	24	24	24	12	12	12	12
Red pens			2	2	2	6	6
Black erasable pens				2	2	8	8
Scissors - 5" (not plastic)		1- blunt tip	1-blunt tip	1-point tip	1-point tip		
Scissors - 7" pointed						1	1
Crayons - 24 set - regular size		2	1	1	1	1	
Markers-washable-8-thick-classic		1	1 -thin line	1	1	1 - thin line	1
Colored pencils - set of 24			1	1	1	1	1
Highlighter marker - yellow	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Highlighter marker - pink					1	1	1
Zippered pencil case			1	1	1	1	1
Plastic pencil box - 5x8x2		1	1	1	1		1
1/2" scotch tape				1	1	1	3
Large pink eraser	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Elmer's washable glue - 4 oz.		1		1		1	
Elmer's glue sticks	24	12	6	4	4	1	3
Index cards - 4x6 lined		2			2- 3x5 lined	4	5
Looseleaf paper - wide ruled				1	1	2	3
Pocket folders - 1 of each color		blue, red,	2	red, green	4	1-yellow	
SOLID COLOR ONLY		grn., yellow	blue	2- blue	any color	1-green	
Composition notebook-wide ruled	2	2	2	3	2	1	
Spiral notebooks- wide ruled					2	7	7
Ream of 20# white paper	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Large box of Kleenex	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Roll of paper towels	3	1	1	1	1	2	
Box of quart/gallon Ziploc bags	2 each			1 - quart			1
Baby wipes			1				
Clorox wipes				1		1	1
<b>Students in grades 3 - 8 need 4 x-large size book covers and 1 regular size book cover</b>							
<b>Students in grades 3 - 8 need one St. Rita Assignment Book (\$5.00). This is purchased through school</b>							
<b>Students in grades 5 - 8 need a portfolio with at least 7 pockets</b>							
<b>Students in grades 5 - 8 need a Texas Instruments TI-30x iis scientific calculator</b>							
<b>Students in grades 5 - 8 need a Bible (\$14.00) &amp; ruler (\$.50). These items are purchased through school.</b>							
<b>All students need a backpack/book bag</b>							
<b>Students in grades 1-8 need a separate bag for gym class that zips or ties shut</b>							
<b>Students in Preschool, Kindergarten &amp; Grade 1 need a pair of VELCRO CLOSING gym shoes for gym class</b>							
<b>Supplies for students in Preschool are provided by school</b>							