

THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ST. MATTHEW

The community of St. Matthew exists in the world as a visible expression of God's love



Sign Your Kids Up for Summer Fun

FOR AGES 3-5
COS Preschool will be open all summer long with a flexible schedule that meets your needs. For more information call 651-457-2510.

FOR AGES 6-12
KLT'S Summer Jamboree includes field trips to locations all across the Twin Cities including water parks, museums, farms and historical centers. For more information call 651-224-3029.



LEFT: Preschool director, Katie Jenkins, works on kindergarten readiness skills as she helps a student practice his writing.

RIGHT: COS's before and after school program provides homework help and activities that support what students are learning in classes.

COS Supports Families with Preschool, Before and After School Care

Making sure children are safe and well cared for in a world where both parents work, sometimes more than one job, is hard to do. Finding a quality program that's both flexible and affordable can be nearly impossible.

That's why **Community of Saints** has made it a priority to help families meet those needs with two programs that have proven very popular: a preschool that actively prepares children for kindergarten, and before and after school care for grade school students that helps them with homework and uses activities to support what they're learning in school.

Only Full-Time, Christian-Based Preschool

COS offers the only full-time, Catholic preschool in the area, including the West Side, West St. Paul and South St. Paul. COS offers a class for 3-4 year olds, geared to developing the social and emotional skills they'll need for school, and a class for 4-5 year olds that focuses on the academic skills children will need in kindergarten.

Flexibility — What Families Need Most

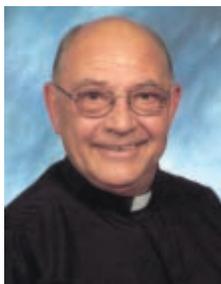
The program is designed to give families lots of choices. The preschool offers full day and half day options for two, three, or five days a week. For families that need more coverage, they offer extended preschool from 6:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.



» **REUNION SUNDAY - MAY 5th and everyone's invited! Did you graduate in a year that ends in a 3 or an 8? Your class will receive special recognition. See the back page for details.**

» **The Class of '63 celebrates their 50th reunion this year. Check out their class photo on pgs. 6-7.**





Dear Saint Matt's Alums and Friends,

School Offers Many Opportunities to Students

The transition from the Saint Matthew campus to the Community of Saints campus has gone well for students and staff. Students are happy, they are learning, they are making new friends and they have opportunities that they did not previously have.

We have a swim team called the Aqua Saints. This opportunity is open to all students. They swim at the South Saint Paul Community Center. Many students will have the opportunity to compete in the state finals to take place at the U of M Aqua Center.

Community of Saints has a chess club. The students play chess matches against each other every week. This is a great way to help students develop critical thinking and strategic skills.

Intramural basketball is open to boys and girls in the 3rd and 4th grades and is a great introduction to competitive play for 5th grade students when they start playing on school teams in the Catholic Athletic Association league.

Community of Saints' music teacher provides lessons in band instruments. These lessons are very affordable and allow an in-house opportunity for our students to develop their musical talents. They will be performing at the spring concert.

These opportunities and so many others confirm the wisdom of the decisions made to form a regional Catholic school and better use our resources in providing a high quality academic program with enhanced extra curricular opportunities.

Reunion Sunday — Chance to View and Purchase School Memorabilia

May 5th is the annual Saint Matthew All School Reunion. Mark your calendars! We will gather for Mass at 9 am. Following Mass there will be a brunch for alums and their families as well as current and former teachers. After lunch there is the opportunity to tour Saint Matthew's School. In the gym there will be displays of school memorabilia from current and past days. There will also be the opportunity to purchase some of these memorabilia.

The future use of the Saint Matthew School building is currently being negotiated. A West Side Charter School has expressed some interest in leasing the building. As of this writing there is no final decision made on the use of the building — these things take time.

Once again I express to all of you how important you are in continuing to provide a strong Catholic education for students and families of the Saint Matthew/West Side neighborhood. Your generosity provides tuition assistance to many low and moderate income families.

God bless you.
Father Stephen Adrian
Chairman, Alums and Friends of
Saint Matthew's School

RIGHT: Students meet for Chess Club every Thursday after school.

BELOW: COS students compete on AquaSaints.



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FR. STEPHEN ADRIAN

Highlights from the A&F Reception

In December, Alums & Friends of St. Matt's gathered at Community of Saints to celebrate Mass with the students and see the newly combined school for themselves. Afterwards, visitors were invited to a reception where they had a chance to talk with students who also gave them a tour of the building. A few shared their thoughts about the experience.



“ Mary Jane Ferber '62

I think being at St. Matthews and having smaller numbers of students provided me with a real nurturing environment. Not everybody needs that but a lot of kids do. I think that's helped me. ”



“ Tom McKeown

One of the advantages of a Catholic school is that there's a culture of respect for other people and for the students themselves that is based on Christian principles. I think that you see that in kids at this age. That's what a Catholic education should be. These students are about to finish and go onto another part of their education. They seem well prepared to go on to the next stage of their life. ”



“ Roy Ferber '59

The students were really outgoing and they really took pride in the school when they showed me around. They didn't want us to miss anything. If a door was closed, they opened it right up. They were really 'popping their buttons.' ”



Community of Saints 5th and 6th grade girls' basketball team recently won the school's first trophy when they took first place in Gethsemane's Catholic School Tournament. Way to go girls!



Front Row, l-r | Charlotte Crawford, Susanne Anglo, Faith MacDonald, Mary Lotzer, Kay Tako, Mary Mueller, Monsignor Cecka, Bonita Kosel, Susan Sperl, Diane Moyer, Barbara Zaun, Theresa Thill, Kathryn Schadegg, Christine Melbye.

Second Row, l-r | Rose Ann Soukop, Daniel Achman, Terrence Michael, Paul Dressler, Mark Triviski, William Redding, John Fischbach, Don Prokop, Robert Hill, David Blomgren, David Prokop, Daniel Palumbo, Alfred Bauman, Lawrence Schmitt, Gregory Tackaberry, John Landsberger, Robert Meyer, Mary Joseph.

Third Row, l-r | Judy Steckmeyer, Carol Diaz, Elizabeth Gurrola, Kathleen Tiger, Vera Denysiuk, Cecelia Lasch, Christine Thul, Diane Kervin, Patricia Moschner, Marcia Lackore, Margaret Philippi, Barbara Wallace, Nancy Finch, Mary Moran, Sandra Alfveby, Linda White, Patricia Weber.

Class of 1963



Fourth Row, l-r | Gerald Faehnrich, Don Lancette, Michael Hill, James Quirk, John Adams, Robert Kane, Ronald Wylie, Kenneth Prow, Thomas Hueffmeier, Richard Soutor, Richard Anderson, James Wenker, Gregory Shepherd, James Guegel, William Schreiner.

Fifth Row, l-r | Patricia Bossart, Diane Mrozinski, Lousie Thurn, Diane Gross, Janice Kofoid, Mary Karlen, Sharon Brisse, Kathleen Wessel, Barbara Lancette, Theresa Burdash, Beverly Ver Douw, Sharon Marx, Donna Waldock, Mary Morin, Alma Dufour, Laura Waldo, Constance Monsour.

Top Row, l-r | John Heilman, John Greco, Mario Casa de Calvo, James Nutzman, Peter Frank, James Grogan, Robert Fischer, Michael Kolb, Joe Biron, Pat Biron, Timothy Bellows, Robert Desch, George Sonnen, James Aydt, Dave Wilmes

COS Supports Families, continued from page 1

Katie Jenkins, the program’s director, says they try to remain flexible so they’re in a position to help parents when something comes up and they need extra coverage.

“When parents register, they list the number of days and times they’d like to bring their child,” Katie explained. “But we always allow for drop-ins in the afternoons and mornings, so if a family suddenly finds they have extra needs, we can help”

A Typical Day — Getting Kids Ready for Kindergarten

Just like in grade school, preschoolers start the day with Free & Reduced Breakfast. Afterwards, both older and younger classes review shapes and colors, with the older children learning the correct words for each in French and Spanish.

Both classes learn about the weather, but the older students expand that lesson into one about geography. There’s also story-time, art, science and math, all organized around a different theme for each month. And, of course, there’s lots of free-time for creative play.

Noon marks the end of the half day when some children go home. Those who remain have the option of bringing their own lunch or eating the school’s hot lunch which can be discounted if they qualify for free and reduced lunch. Afternoons include outdoor recess, followed by nap time or a chance for quiet play

“We offer more than most preschools by teaching foreign languages and geography,” Katie said. “Kids are writing a lot, too. Children coming out of this program are more than ready for kindergarten.”

Having a real kindergarten class across the hall is also a plus. “Preschoolers get to visit our kindergarten and see what it’s like,” Katie explained. “And it’s a great way for parents to get to come in, meet the grade school teachers and check out the school.”

Overall, Katie believes the preschool provides a great transition for kids, helping them learn how to work independently and be part of a group. Developing those skills makes it much easier for a kindergarten teacher to focus on developing their reading skills.

“I’m a huge advocate for early childhood learning,” Katie said. “That’s where we can close the achievement gap.”



For more information about COS preschool contact Katie Jenkins at 651-457-2510 or kjenkins@communityofsaints.org

Before & After School Program Serves School & Community

COS has continued the tradition of providing before and after school care to school families, as well as to children who attend public schools that don’t offer a comparable program. KLT provides a safe, supervised and engaging environment for children up to 12 years old for school mornings, afternoons, on school release days and in the summer.

KLT, which stands for Kids Learning Together, offers services at both COS school and St. Matthew’s campus. The COS site is convenient for school families, while the St. Matt’s site offers a large dedicated space.

At both sites kids can study, play games and socialize with each other. On school release days and in the summer, KLT students from both locations meet at the St. Matt’s campus.

Assistant Director, Cherri Trapp points out that the two locations provide virtually the same services, beginning with drop off and pick up times, which are as early as 6 a.m. and as late as 6 p.m.





(LEFT) KLT's Summer Jamboree includes three field trips each week including one to a local beach or water park.

(BELOW) KLT extends services to children attending schools that don't offer before or after school care.



Jennifer said. "If you're a single parent, you may not have much time to help your kids do homework."

Other families are challenged by more basic needs, as Jennifer explained, "Some may be struggling financially and the food assistance we offer by providing meals to their children is a big help, especially in the summer."

KLT's budget also allocates funds to support families who may experience a crisis. "We

have scholarships and emergency funds available on a monthly basis," Jennifer said. "KLT honors St. Matt's long-standing commitment of never turning a family away for lack of funds. We've kept that policy."

"We offer breakfast and snacks," Cherri said. "Our first priority is to work with children to make sure they get their homework done." Once that's complete, kids engage in supplemental activities designed to support what they're learning at school.

"We have books, games, arts & crafts," Cherri said. "We don't sit around watching TV," she adds.

Summer Fun — Disguised Learning

In the summer, KLT offers a fulltime program with the goal of keeping children active and their minds engaged.

"Each week we have a different theme that we organize all our activities around, including our three weekly field trips," Cherri explained. "During Outer Space Week we plan to go to the University of Minnesota's Exploradome. We'll also have a scientist from Mad Science visit to help us explore living in space." The third field trip for the week usually involves swimming at a water park or local beach.

"We're Here to Serve Families"

Jennifer Slaten, KLT's director, says the current mission is the same as it's been since she and Cherri first launched the program at St. Matthew's School nine years ago.

"We're here to serve the families who are part of our program," Jennifer said. "We do that by supporting their children's education."

For many families, that means keeping their kids socially engaged and busy with learning activities while the parents are working. For other families, the needs are greater.

"Some of our families are very dependent on the homework help we provide their children,"

In-House Program Generates Profits

While most schools hire the YMCA to run their after school program, by keeping KLT in-house, profits generated by the program can go towards supporting the school. "Our program is designed to produce income for the school," Jennifer explained. "This is a transitional year, so we plan to break even, but next year we expect to be generating a profit again."

As an in-house program, KLT can also afford to be much more flexible. "Parents can pick and choose exactly what they need," Jennifer says. "Our program is completely parent driven."



For information about the summer program, contact Jennifer Slaten at 651-224-3029.



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The Riehle family (left to right): Dan '69, Marty '64,
John '57, Marie '62, Nancy '59, Joe '72, Betsy
[graduated from 6th grade in '73]

Thank you!

This issue of *The Good News* has
been sponsored by the Riehle family.
Thank you for your support!

If you are interested in sponsoring an upcoming
issue of *The Good News* contact the editor, Maggie Lee
at 612-964-1677 or email AlumniNews@St-Matts.org.

REUNION SUNDAY MAY 5

All Alums, Teachers, Family & Friends
are Welcome!

**Special recognition to the Class of '63 and
all classes that graduated in years ending in a "3" or "8."**

Come celebrate 9 a.m. Mass at St. Matthews then join us for
a brunch in the Social Hall. There will be an opportunity
to visit the school building, view some memorabilia in the
gym, some of which will be available for purchase.

There is no cost but please let us know
if you're coming so we have enough
for everyone. RSVP to the parish center
at 651-224-9793 or COS school
at 651-457-2510.



Come and
see your old
friends,
classmates and
neighbors!