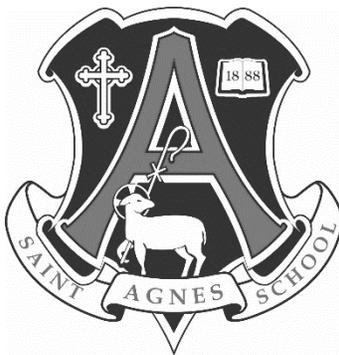


A Parent's Guide to 2nd Grade

Produced by the Faculty of the Lower School



2019-2020
Academic Year

- From the Director of the Lower School -

Dear Parents,

It is with great joy that I welcome you and your child(ren) to the 2019-20 school year at Saint Agnes! The packet of information that you hold is a convenient resource for you, containing important information about your son's or daughter's grade-level. It is our sincere hope that this quick guide will be a valuable resource to you especially when questions arise, as they undoubtedly will.

Before providing a lot of practical information about your child's grade-level, allow me first to reflect with you on our partnership. The Church teaches that parents are the *primary educators of their child(ren)*, and it is our responsibility as a Catholic school to support our parents in that important work. As the primary educator and role model, you, through your words and actions, have a powerful impact on the success of our partnership. When we remain united in purpose, our shared work in cultivating Faith, Reason, and Virtue within your child(ren) has a much greater chance of bearing good fruit.

The faculty, staff, and coaches that work with your child(ren) are deeply committed to their well-being; they are driven by our school's mission, which is to bring young people closer to Christ. They work very hard to ensure that your child(ren) receive the very best spiritual, moral, and intellectual formation, while also providing an authentic witness of faith. That said, they are not perfect or infallible! They need both your prayers and your patience. Please pray for them each day with your child.

Furthermore, I ask that you, when a question or concern arises, offer our faculty, staff, and coaches a presumption of goodwill. In other words, please assume that their actions and words are motivated with the best intentions. Such presumption of goodwill allows the teacher, staff member, or coach an opportunity to offer his/her own account of what happened. If a question or concern arises, I ask that you follow the Biblical principle in Matthew's Gospel to speak directly first with the person with whom you have a question, concern, or dispute; allow him/her to offer an explanation, and be open to another perspective. I also humbly suggest that you take your son's or daughter's version of an incident as one data point; presume goodwill on their part but remember that he/she is a child. Goodwill is something that we - faculty, staff, and coaches - also owe to you and your children. As partners with you, please trust us. If you follow this Gospel principle and you do not receive what you believe to be an adequate explanation, please contact me. As the Director of the Lower School, it is my job to ensure that your questions and concerns are answered and addressed fairly. For me, it's not about sorting out who's right or who's wrong and administering consequences, but rather to find the truth of the matter and see how best we can learn from our challenges and be better in the future - both our students and us as partners with you in helping them mature, learn, and grow.

Thank you again for entrusting Saint Agnes School with your child's academic and spiritual formation. May the Lord bless our school in the 2019-2020 school year and may He abundantly bless you and your family in the coming year!

In Christ,



Michael Adkins

Director of the Lower School | Dean of Academics

madkins@saintagnesschool.org

651-925-8756

Lower School Culture

- **Responsive Classroom**

Our K-6 classrooms employ a program called Responsive Classroom (RC). RC is a classroom management approach to discipline and school culture. While we use RC, we have adapted and adopted it to fit properly within a Catholic Christian environment. The goal of the program is to free the learning environment from distractions so students can focus on:

- Academic studies
- Building positive relationships and community
- Growing in virtue
- Learning to make good choices
- Learning to use freedom for the good
- Learning self-governance and self-sufficiency

Part of RC is an approach of redirecting or “reminding language” in which the teacher will calmly redirect the student on his/her choices; this approach is more direct and involves less emotion and avoids frustration on the part of the adult or yelling. When students abuse freedom or make poor choices, RC employs what are called “Logical Consequences”; these consequences are equitable and fitting for the nature of the poor choice made. Probably the most important element of RC is “Morning Meeting,” a classroom gathering with the homeroom teacher that begins each day and pro-actively weeds-out classroom issues before they arise by cultivating respect and unity. This gathering is infused with prayer, interactive games, conversation, sharing, and community building. Morning Meeting is also the time where faculty will teach about the Virtues.

- **Education in Virtue**

Education in Virtue, or EIV, is a program developed by the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist (the sisters who serve at Saint Agnes School). The program dovetails very well with Responsive Classroom and uses many of the same approaches and reminding language.

Communication: Whom to Contact?

Teachers are encouraged to pro-actively communicate with parents and respond to inquiries within 48 hours or less; our faculty are happy to address any questions that parents may have. Please feel free to reach out to faculty, while remembering that the bulk of their day is occupied with teaching and supervising students; their opportunities to communicate are often limited to after school (between 2:45 and 3:30) and many faculty also coach our young people. Please be understanding of their time and allow them a couple days to respond to your message.

Generally speaking, we ask that parents/guardians speak with the adult (i.e. the teacher, coach, administrator, etc.) most directly involved with their inquiry first; we also ask that you follow the “chain of command” outlined below in regard to any concern or dispute, trusting that the immediate and direct adult overseeing the situation will address your concern. If you are not satisfied, please speak to the next individual in the “chain of command,” respecting this process.

Please note that there is a wealth of information about the school, the academic calendar, athletic calendars on both our school website and within our weekly Parent Newsletter (emailed to all registered families).

Please call our Main Office if you are not receiving the weekly Parent Newsletter: 651-925-8700.

- **Student absence/illness**

- Attendance Hotline: 651-925-8777 (leave a message if no pick-up)

- **Classroom teachers** (i.e. Homeroom teacher, Specialist Teacher such as PE or Art, etc.):

- Something that happened in class;
- Questions about late work or due dates;
- A lesson, or something shown or discussed in class;
- Questions or concerns about relationships between students;

- Obtaining late or missing work for a student;
- Questions about a grade or information in Educate (online gradebook);
- A question or concern about how a situation was handled;
- You have a concern about something a teacher has said or done (you should speak directly first with him or her, offering the individual an opportunity to address your questions).
- **Director of Lower School / Dean of Academics** (Mr. Michael Adkins) madkins@saintagnesschool.org
 - After you have spoken with the classroom teacher(s) and do not believe you have received the requisite, fair, or adequate explanation or result.
 - You have a question about curriculum or programming.
 - Note: Most matters will ultimately be determined by the Director of the Lower School and need not be directed further to the Headmaster unless there is a major concern or dispute.
- **Headmaster** (Dr. Kevin Ferdinandt) kferdinandt@saintagnesschool.org
 - After you have spoken with the Director of the Lower School and do not believe you have received the requisite, fair, or adequate explanation or result.
- **Pastor / Superintendent** (Fr. Mark Moriarty)
 - After you have spoken with the Headmaster and do not believe you have received the requisite, fair, or adequate explanation or result.
- **Main Office Staff (651-925-8700)**
 - Questions about: schedules, weekly parent newsletter, lunch times, school Mass times, parents at prayer, hot lunch program, calendar, events, Educate access, volunteer opportunities, etc.
- **Athletics**
 - Mr. Mike Streitz: Upper School Athletics mstreitz@saintagnesschool.org
 - Mr. Sam Thompson: Lower School Athletics sthompson@saintagnesschool.org
- **Volunteering & E3/Virtus Certification**
 - Mrs. Annette Beaudry: abeaudry@saintagnesschool.org
If you are interested in being a school volunteer, a chaperone, or helper at recess, please first make sure that you have met the Archdiocesan requirements to work with children, known commonly as “E3” certification or Virtus training. Mrs. Beaudry will look up your name and see if you need to update any information.
- **Business Office Staff**
Mr. Bob Collett bcollett@saintagnesschool.org Sandy Veal sveal@saintagnesschool.org
 - Questions about: fees, tuition, after school care, maintenance/building and facilities concerns, hot lunch accounts, etc.
- **Advancement Office (See website or call Main Office to direct your call)**
 - Questions about: communications, website, social media platforms, marketing, annual Give Day, annual raffle/ticket sales, alumni relations, events, Red & White benefit dinner, donations, Grandparents Day, etc.
- **Parish Office (651-925-8800)**
 - Questions about: parish Mass times, sacramental preparation, parish organizations (e.g. Men’s Club, Altar & Rosary Society), annual parish Fall Festival, donations to the parish, religious art, Latin Mass resources, parish history, etc.

Other Common / Important Lower School Policies:

DROP-OFF / PICK-UP

Please make sure to have your son or daughter to school on time; the day begins promptly at 7:55 a.m. Students may arrive any time after 7:00 a.m., but Lower School students (grades K-6) must remain in the cafeteria in Before School Care until 7:30; at that time, students may then head to their classrooms.

The day ends at 2:45 and all K-6 students are out the door by 2:45 and ready to be picked up; we dismiss students in waves starting at 2:40 to ensure safe and orderly departure from the building. 6th grade classrooms are on a rotating schedule to serve as school patrol, helping to pause traffic on Lafond Avenue. Students not picked up by 2:50 are brought down to the cafeteria to be picked up by parents and guardians. The After School Care program (for a fee) officially begins at 3:05 p.m. and ends at 5:00.

NOTE: At drop-off and pick-up, we ask that you please travel eastbound on Lafond Avenue; this immensely helps the traffic flow and moves everyone quicker and is much safer for students and parents crossing the street.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Upon entering the building students are not allowed to use electronic devices (e.g., laptops, tablets, cellular phones, smartwatches, MP3 players, gaming devices, etc.). Electronic devices may be used after 2:45 p.m. Electronic devices, including smartwatches, are not to be worn or carried on the person of any student during the school day. This policy applies to all devices capable of sending or receiving signals between devices via cellular data, wireless data, Bluetooth, or other means, as well as those capable of capturing digital images or video. Student lockers are equipped with locks to safeguard electronic devices and other valuables. If a student is found with or is using an electronic device during school hours, an automatic 45-minute detention is imposed and the items may be confiscated. Refusal to hand over the device may result in suspension. The school's wireless network is reserved for use by faculty, staff and guests to the building conducting business. Student devices are not permitted on the wireless network at any time.

BIRTHDAYS/PARTIES - INVITATIONS

Unless all of the children in your child's homeroom are invited, invitations for birthday parties planned to take place outside of school should be sent by mail. Birthday snacks may be brought to school for the whole class. It is best to send store-bought snacks that are wholesome and promote healthy food choices.

CHARITABLE SPEECH

Saint Agnes School is a community of learners and a community of faith. Everyone is expected to speak charitably to and about one another. Every individual has a right to his/her good name. If a dispute arises, an individual ought to speak charitably and forthrightly to the individual with whom he/she has a disagreement. Gossip, slander, and teasing are not permitted as they create division and destroy the harmony of the social and learning environment. Saint Agnes employees and students are to respect: the Catholic Church, the teachings of the Faith, other Christian denominations, other religions, the mission of the school, and school administration, faculty, and staff. This includes statements made in person as well as on the internet (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, blogs, etc.) and other modes of communication (e.g., text messaging, Snapchat, Instagram, etc.).

UNIFORM DRESS CODE (K-6)

Unless prior school permission is obtained, students are to dress in the regulation school uniform, which may be purchased at Donald's Uniform Store, 972 Payne Avenue in St. Paul, or 6407 City West Parkway in Eden Prairie. Please follow both the uniform and non-uniform code as outlined in the *Parent & Student Handbook*.

Welcome to 2nd Grade!

Dear Second-Grade Parents,

We are excited to have the opportunity to get to know your second grader this year. This letter will give you an overview of our second-grade program. Most days we will send home a daily newsletter that will include announcements, highlights, and homework assignments.

Our Curriculum

Spelling: We use the *Superkids* phonics-based spelling program. There will be a spelling test every fifth lesson. This test will occur on the last day of the school week or if it is a short week it will be scheduled for the last day of the following week. Most weeks we send the spelling list a week before the test. You will find that each new list of spelling words has two categories of words. One is labeled “Pattern Words.” Only a few of these words will be featured on the test. These words do not need to be memorized. These words can be spelled by sounding them out and using featured spelling rules. The other category is “Memory Words.” All these words will be given in the test. Some of them do not contain the regular letter-sound correspondences that follow the spelling rules. These words need to be memorized. We encourage studying a little bit each day. We send home a spelling packet along with this list. Completing this packet is not a requirement. This can be used as a study guide. It includes a sample selection from our reader to practice reading aloud to you. This packet does not need to be returned. If your child’s spelling grade falls below an S+ then it becomes a requirement until the grade rises to an S+.

Math: Our daily newsletter will feature highlights and homework assignments from both the grade level math and advanced math classes. Mr. Johnson’s news is titled *J-Math* and Mrs. Vance’s news is titled *V-Math*.

Mr. Johnson teaches grade-level math. It is not remedial math in any way. It combines of Saxon math with elements of Singapore math. It is a Level 2 plus course as many aspects of third grade math are incorporated. Homework will often be side B of a fact sheet and side B of a concept sheet, memorizing the full set of addition and subtraction facts is important. Flash cards will be provided. Please help your child keep them organized in a baggie or small box and help them use them as the set grows. You as a parent are expected to check the homework daily. After lesson 10, there will be a fact and concept test every five days, a copy of the concept test will be sent home. Encourage your child to be independent in handling their blue folder by emptying it each night and making sure it contains the days homework before leaving for school.

Mrs. Vance teaches advanced math. She uses the Saxon math program in conjunction with “Singapore Math.” She will often use Singapore math to introduce the concept in the stages of concrete, pictorial, and then abstract. After a lesson is taught in Saxon math, we will complete side “A” in class. We will go over it in class to determine if there are any misunderstandings. Side “B” will go home for homework each night. There is usually two fact pages to complete in addition to the concept page. This page is usually timed. Like the concept page, side “A” will be completed in class and side “B” is homework. There is a fact and concept test about every tenth lesson. Periodically there will be Singapore-related homework. Advanced math tends to have

more homework than grade-level math. Encourage your child to independently empty the side of the folder that contains corrected homework by giving it to you. The other side of the folder will contain homework to be completed and returned to school. Have your second grader utilize the newsletter to check for what needs to be completed and returned.

Reading: This year we will take the skills that your child has acquired and work toward greater reading fluency. It is exciting to see children transition from learning to read to reading to learn. We use the *Superkids Reading Program*. Along with the spelling program, it includes a decodable reader, grammar/spelling workbook, writing assignments, magazine issues, chapter books, and reflective discussions. For homework, we encourage reading for at least ten minutes a day.

Grammar: In *Shurley Grammar* they will learn a well-defined system of classifying sentences, a clear and structured method for writing sentences, and definition jingles that will stay with them for life. We cover 10 chapters over the course of the year.

Handwriting: Starting with a correct pencil grip is extremely helpful. Pencil grips can be purchased to assist with this skill. Here is an image of the grip and pencil grip accessories:



History: Our grade school has a classical approach to our study of history. Therefore, as a school we cycle through the Ancient Civilizations. This gives our students a grounded understanding of how we have been shaped by the past. In second grade our biggest unit is on Ancient Greece. This will pick up momentum in the late winter and will culminate with a history day celebration, the Ancient Greece Symposium. Meanwhile, we will study topics such as geography, Americans moving west, the Civil War, and Civil Rights Leaders.

Science: We have fascinating units on weather, rocks, fossils, soil, and many other topics. Our “Super” magazine from “Superkids” always features many science and history related articles, as well.

In addition to our science program, Mr. Johnson has a fall study with leaves and Mrs. Vance has a study on spiders.

Physical Education: Mr. Thompson teaches the P.E. class twice a week. Tennis shoes are required.

Art: Mrs. Richtsmeier will teach art once a week. She often posts the beautiful artwork throughout our grade school hallways.

Religion and Latin: Mrs. O'Hern will host your child's religion and Latin class. This is an important year that includes the Sacrament of First Reconciliation and First Communion. She will send home schedules in respects to these dates. Some information from Mrs. O'Hern below...

Religion:

Text: *Our Life in Jesus* (*Spirit of Truth series* – Sophia institute Press)

Students focus on how much children are loved by Jesus Christ, and how His death and Resurrection has opened the way to Heaven.

- The parts of the Mass
- Lives and lessons of the saints
- More ways to pray

There is a special focus on the Sacraments of Penance (Confession) and Holy Eucharist.

Information is needed in order to receive these Sacraments. This includes a completed registration form, a copy of the Baptismal certificate, and permission from the pastor.

Latin:

The student continues to master Latin prayers, chants and Mass responses. There is no textbook. Printed materials are used.

Music: Mrs. Truran will teach music class twice a week. There will be a scheduled Christmas and Spring Concert.

Homework: Second graders are responsible for completing and bringing back daily homework. In the event of missing homework, we will give your child a "Late Homework Slip." Accumulated homework slips will result in a reduced grade. Second graders should strive to read at least 10 minutes a day. Take time to study for the spelling test. Occasionally there will be science or history project with a reasonable amount of days or weeks' notice.

Absent/Makeup work: Please communicate with teachers ahead of time if you anticipate your student being absent. Some work may be provided beforehand, but the majority of work will be made up following these absences. For unanticipated (sick) absences, students are expected to check in with the teacher right away and complete provided checklist of missed assignments.

Phone/Electronic Policy: It is the school policy that no electronics are allowed at school. If a student needs to call home, there is a phone available in the front office for student use. Please speak to the teacher directly if you have any questions about this.

Saint Agnes Dismissal Policy: At the end of the day students will either be walked outside for pick up or will go downstairs to be checked in to After School Care. A parent, designated carpool adult, or 7-12 sibling must pick up and supervise student outside. For students checked into After School Care, a parent, designated carpool adult, or 7-12 sibling must sign out and supervise student upon pick up. For outside dismissal, parent, designated carpool adult, or 7-12 sibling must physically collect K-6 student or be visible to teacher/student from the sidewalk.

Students who are not picked up outside by 2:50pm will be checked into After School Care and will need to be signed out by a parent, designated carpool adult, or 7-12 sibling.

Parent Teacher Communication: Most days we will send home a daily newsletter that will include announcements, highlights, and homework assignments. Grades will be posted on Educate. Most tests and projects will be retained with respective teachers during first and third quarters to be used and sent with parents at conference time. During second and fourth quarter, tests and projects will be sent home

Contacting Mr. Johnson or Mrs. Vance: Email is the best way to reach us. We can read and respond to emails throughout the day. We are also happy to meet in person at any point. Please be in touch with any questions or concerns.

We look forward to having this opportunity to know you and your child. May the Lord bless our school year.

In Christ,

David Johnson and Leila Vance

Djohnson@saintagnesschool.org
Lvance@saintagnesschool.org

Lower School Mass Schedule 2019-2020

Grades K-6

K-6 WEDNESDAYS 8:45AM

K-12 All-School Masses also at 8:45AM *Red/Italics = Mass in Latin*

2019 SEPTEMBER

No Masses the first week of School

September 4 Wednesday	K-6	English	22 nd Week of Ordinary Time
September 11 Wednesday	K-6	English	23 rd Week of Ordinary Time
September 12 Thursday	K-12	English	Most Holy Name of Mary
September 13	3-6		Lower School Second Friday Confessions
September 18 Wednesday	K-6	English	24 th Week of Ordinary Time
September 25 Wednesday	K-6	English	25 th Week of Ordinary Time

OCTOBER

October 2	K-12	English	Holy Guardian Angels
October 9 Wednesday	K-6	English	27 th Week in Ordinary Time
October 11	3-6		Lower School Second Friday Confessions
October 15 Tuesday	K-6	English	**Grandparent's Day
October 16 Wednesday	NO SCHOOL for K-6 only		
October 23 Wednesday	K-6	English	29 th Week in Ordinary Time
<i>October 28 Monday</i>	<i>K-12</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>Sts. Simon and Jude</i>

NOVEMBER

November 1 Friday	K-12	English	All Saints Day
November 6 Wednesday	K-6	English	31 st Week in Ordinary Time
November 8	3-6		Lower School Second Friday Confessions
November 13 Wednesday	K-6	English	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
November 20 Wednesday	K-6	English	33 th Week in Ordinary Time
<i>November 21, Thursday</i>	<i>K-12</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
November 27, 28, 29 Wednesday	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break		

DECEMBER

<i>December 4 Wednesday</i>	<i>K-6</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>1st Week of Advent</i>
December 9 Monday	K-12	English	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
December 18 Wednesday	NO MASS for K-6		
<i>December 12 Thursday</i>	<i>K-12</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>
December 13	3-6		Lower School Second Friday Confessions
December 18 Wednesday	K-6	English	3 rd Week of Advent

2020 JANUARY

January 8 Wednesday	K-6	English	Christmas Season – Wednesday after Epiphany
January 15 Wednesday	K-6	English	1 st Week in Ordinary Time
January 17	3-6		Lower School Third Friday Confessions
<i>January 21 Tuesday</i>	<i>K-12</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>Feast of St. Agnes</i>
January 22 Wednesday	K-6	English	2 nd Week in Ordinary Time
January 29 Wednesday	K-6	English	3 rd Week in Ordinary Time

FEBRUARY

February 3 Monday	K-12	English	Feast of St. Blaise (Blessing of throats)
February 5 Wednesday	K-6	English	St. Agatha
February 12 Wednesday	K-6	English	5 th Week in Ordinary Time
February 14	3-6		Lower School Second Friday Confessions
February 19 Wednesday	K-6	English	6 th Week in Ordinary Time
February 26 Wednesday	K-12	English	Ash Wednesday
February 27	2 nd Gr.	8:05am	First Confessions

MARCH

<i>March 4 Wednesday</i>	<i>K-6</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>1st Week in Lent</i>
March 11 Wednesday	K-6	English	2 nd Week in Lent
March 13	3-6		Lower School Second Friday Confessions
March 18 Wednesday	Note: No K-6 Mass		(due to Masses on 19th and 20th)
March 19 Thursday	K-12	English	Solemnity of St. Joseph
<i>March 20 Friday</i>	<i>K-12</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>Opening of 40 Hours</i>

Please note that 40 Hours will conclude at the Sunday, March 22, 10am OF Latin High Mass

March 23 - 27

NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK

APRIL

April 1 Wednesday	K-6	English	5 th Week in Lent
April 8 Wednesday	K-6	English	Wednesday of Holy Week
April 15 Wednesday	K-6	English	Wednesday in the Octave of Easter
April 17 Friday	3-6		Lower School Third Friday Confessions
April 22 Wednesday	K-6	English	2 nd Week of Easter
April 29 Wednesday	K-6	English	St. Catherine of Siena

MAY

<i>May 1 Friday</i>	<i>K-12</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>May Crowning & Feast of St. Joseph the Worker</i>
May 6 Wednesday	K-6	English	4 th Week of Easter
May 8	3-6		Lower School Second Friday Confessions
May 13 Wednesday	K-6	English	5 th Week of Easter
May 14 Thursday	K-12	English	Scapular Enrollment & Feast of St. Matthias
May 20 Wednesday	K-6	English	6 th Week of Easter (Final Mass of Year)