Welcome to Ascension Catholic School
New Family Resource Guide

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN A CATHOLIC, FAMILY CENTERED, VALUE ORIENTED ENVIRONMENT

Come Experience the Ascension Difference!

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Meet Our Administration

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Welcome to the ACS Family

We are so happy that you have chosen ACS for your child’s education. I hope this document will furnish you with useful hints and tips as you become familiar with this new community.

Please know that we are here to help and look forward to being your companion on this journey.

We ask that you take time to read the parent/student handbook and review it with your child(ren). It can be found on our website and parent portal.

Reading the school policies and procedures will help you and your children to feel more at ease.

All families are required to digitally sign the school handbook acknowledgment page each year.

Snapshot of Helpful Topics

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COMMUNICATION

We will be communicating with you in a variety of ways. At times we will use email and text. We have a website and a Facebook page. On Thursdays, we send out a school enews. One of the main ways we will communicate with you is through the RenWeb parent portal. Once you have your account, you will be able to log in and see:

- Classroom information, including grades
- News and Announcements
- Homework
- Important Links
- School Calendar
- Teacher Newsletters
- And much more

WHY VISIT THE ACS WEBSITE?

Without logging into the portal, you will find information about:

- Academics
- Helpful school resources
- Ordering uniforms
- Sports
- Events
- Lunch Menu
VOLUNTEERING & HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

One of the best ways to meet families and make new friends is to volunteer by using your God given talents to serve the school and make it a better place for all. Ascension is blessed to have a very active Home & School Association. They have a variety of activities and ways for you to get involved.

Every Ascension family is asked to earn 100 points or donate $200 each year. Points are easy to earn! Through chaperoning field trips, helping in the lunch room, joining committees, and helping with fun school events like the Christmas Bazaar, you can earn points! Volunteering to help with the Annual Gala and Casino Nights are also ways to help the school and earn points. You will find a point card with a list of some ways to earn points listed on the back in the Parent/Student Handbook. Cards are also available on the website, portal and in the school office.

Consider becoming active in your Home & School Association.

Many businesses have programs that donate to the school when you shop. Amazon Smile is easy to sign up for and benefits Ascension.

LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS ON YOUR POINT CARD!
UNIFORMS

Sir Walter Uniform Company is the official supplier of all Ascension uniforms. Only Sir Walter Uniforms may be worn at school. Uniform sales are scheduled and usually held in the school cafeteria. Website: https://store.sirwalteruniforms.com/schools/ascension-catholic.html

The link above is located on the school website as well. Sir Walter also has a store located at: 500 S. Plumosa Street, Merritt Island, FL 32952  PHONE (321) 459-0646 or (800) 621-8263
EMAIL Customerservice@sirwalteruniforms.com
WORKING DAYS/HOURS  Mon - Fri / 9:00AM - 5:00PMSat / 9:00AM - 12:00PM Sun / CLOSED

COMPLETE UNIFORM POLICY
The complete uniform policy can be found in the Parent and Student Handbook on the portal and website. Please take time to review the policy with your child(ren). This will help them to feel comfortable on the first day of school, knowing that everyone else will be following the same rules and wearing the same clothes.

USED UNIFORM SALES
Used uniforms sales are held about twice a year and uniforms are very inexpensive. Dates are published on the school calendar.

NUT DAYS (NO UNIFORM TODAY) - Days students do not have to wear uniforms. Please see the Parent/ Student handbook for the complete uniform policy, including NUT Days. Sometimes students are asked to donate $1 for the NUT day. These funds are usually used for charitable donations.

APPROVED STUDENT ATTIRE

PK3, VPK, K and PE for all students.
Students should wear tennis shoes.

Gr. 1-5
Girls may choose to wear blue shorts, skorts or pants as well. Boys may wear blue pants. Shoes should be a solid navy, black, brown or tan.

Middle school - Gr. 6-8
Girls may choose skorts and both girls and boys may wear pants. Shoes should be a solid navy, black, brown or tan.
SAFETY
We are blessed and thankful that you have entrusted your children to our care and we take school security very seriously at Ascension.

The campus is covered with security cameras. All visitors must enter through the main door to sign in and receive a badge. Our security plans have been evaluated by visiting police, sheriff deputies and an outside security company.

Each hallway, the cafeteria and gym are equipped with automated external defibrillators (AED) which the faculty and staff have been trained to use. They are also certified in CPR and first aid.

MASS
All Ascension students attend mass on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am. Students sit with their class. The school mass is a wonderful event and the choirs, band and ensembles play and sing. If you wish to attend mass, meet the class in the church. Let the teacher know you would like your child to sit with you. At that point you are responsible for your child, until they are returned to the pew with the class. We ask that you take your child and sit in an open section. This helps other students to remain focused on the mass and in the case of younger students, keeps them from missing their own parents who might not be able to attend. Students wear their PE clothes on the days they have PE even if that falls on a Wednesday.

CAR LINE PROCEDURES
A detailed traffic map can be found in the Parent and Student Handbook. Parents are asked to stay in their cars and not park and walk through the moving traffic or approach the students and teachers. This is dangerous and slows down the dismissal process. Each family will receive a card with the family name printed on it. Please display this on your visor or dashboard. This helps the carline to move much faster. Please pull ALL the way forward before stopping to pick up your student. A faculty member will be there to help your child into the car safely.

CAR LINES:
NOTE: The oldest child goes to the youngest child’s family/carpool line.
1. PK3-K and all siblings dismiss from the cafeteria
2. Gr. 1-3 and all siblings dismiss from the area outside the office.
3. Gr. 4-8 and all siblings dismiss from outside the church.
LUNCH

Ascension students may choose to bring a lunch from home or purchase a hot lunch. A menu is published each month with the daily menu. Peanut butter and/or jelly sandwiches and salads are available daily in addition to the hot lunch of the day. The menu can always be found on the website and Ren-Web parent portal. Hot lunch is ordered by the student each school morning. Funds for purchasing lunch are deposited through the schoolpaymentportal.com website. Parents set up accounts and set up their own notifications as well as choosing their payment options. School lunches cost $3.50 and there are snacks and drinks available to purchase.

In an effort to encourage healthy eating habits, we offer a selection of fresh vegetables and fruits for students to eat at no cost. These options are meant as supplements to a child’s lunch from home or purchased from the cafeteria.

BEFORE/AFTER AND EXTENDED CARE

Before school care is available beginning at 7:00 am each day. Students are escorted to school when the doors open at 7:40 am. Students are not allowed to wait unattended outside the school.

Extended Care is available to PK3 and VPK students who are dismissed at 11:45 each day. Parents sign students up at drop off so that the program is properly staffed.

After school care is available from 3 to 6 pm each day for all students and is usually available on days that all students are dismissed at noon. No hot lunch is provided on noon dismissal days.

These services can be paid for through a parent’s FACTS account. All services cost $4 an hour.
ATHLETICS

Ascension sports teams are part of Catholic Youth Sports. Students in grades K-5 play on co-ed teams. Sports include soccer, basketball, flag football and track. These teams are learning leagues and good sportsmanship is encouraged. Students in grades 6-8 play on more competitive teams and students can join in soccer, flag football, basketball, soccer and track. Ascension also has its own cross country team. More information on costs, uniforms, schedules and volunteer coaches can be found on the school website and will sent to parents as each sport approaches.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What would happen if I am late to pick up my child from carline? Students are never left unattended! Students will be escorted to after care and can be picked up if they are not picked up by 3:25 pm.

Can I bring my other children when I come to volunteer? We love our future Eagles, but for safety reasons, siblings are not allowed to accompany their parents while volunteering.

Who do I notify if my child is going to be out of school? Call or email the school office before 9 am if possible. If we are not notified, someone will call to check on your child.

What is the rainy day dismissal policy? If there is lightning in the area, students are held inside for safety reasons. Parents must either wait for the weather to pass or come inside to pick up their children.

What if my child has to take medication? A parent must bring the medication in with the Diocesan Medication form filled out, which is available on our website. The form must be filled out completely. Medication must be in the original container with the child’s name on it.

What if it is my child’s birthday? Birthdays are so special! Students are allowed a NUT day on their birthday. (If their birthday falls in the summer, they are allowed a NUT day on their “half birthday.” For example, if their birthday falls on June 12, they would get their NUT day on Dec. 12. If you have a question, ask the office or your child’s teacher. A parent can send a treat to be shared at recess or lunch, but we ask that parents send individual items such as cupcakes or cookies and not things that must be cut. See the handbook for more guidance on having your child’s name put up on the sign, handing out invitations, allergies and more.