

**PARENT HANDBOOK
ST. RITA IN THE DESERT
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & CONFIRMATION**



Welcome back!

We're so glad to be able to spend time with your children and to teach them about their Catholic faith!

Please read the **ENTIRE** handbook, as there have been many changes!

ALL STUDENTS

- Please make sure to read the entire handbook and take note of the specifics that pertain to your child. Also, please make sure you have completed **ALL** necessary **forms**.
- Per Diocesan regulations, all students will receive **Safe Environment training**. You will be advised in advance of the date and content of the training. You do have the option to opt out if you submit the request in writing in advance of the training.

- We sometimes take **photos** of our students during their activities (including sacraments). Photos may be displayed in classrooms, or on the St. Rita website or bulletin, but will not identify children by name.
- **Attendance** is an important component of your child's faith formation. Any child who misses three classes in either semester may be required to repeat the grade; in the case of sacramental preparation years, the sacrament may be delayed due to attendance. If your child misses a third class in either semester, please contact the DRE immediately so that we may work towards a solution.
- A copy of this handbook and a calendar will be emailed to you, but are also available on our website. We follow the VUSD calendar for breaks.



PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN

- Pre-K and Kindergarten classes are held during the 9 am Mass. Drop off (no earlier than 8:50) and pick up (immediately following Mass) are in the Verhagen building.
- Pre-K is open to 4-year-olds who are potty trained and comfortable in a classroom setting without a parent or sibling present. Kindergarten is for children currently enrolled in Kindergarten.



ELEMENTARY

- 1ST-5TH grade classes are held on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30 in the Verhagen building.
- We will no longer be providing snacks on a regular basis, but your child is welcome to bring their own snack to be eaten before class begins.
- Please emphasize to your child that it is important to use the restroom before class begins; we only have a short time in the classroom.
- Children may be dropped off between 3:30 and 3:55 in the parking lot outside the Hall; we now require that you **sign your child in** when you drop them off.
- If you are dropping a child off after the classes have gone inside, please walk your child to their classroom and sign them in.
- Children will be **picked up and signed out from their classroom**. **Only parents will be allowed to pick children up UNLESS** you have signed an Authorization form for other adults to pick up your child.
- It is very rare that we have discipline or behavior problems; however, if a catechist refers a student to the DRE, you will be notified of the incident. If a student is referred a second time, a parent conference will be required before the student is admitted back to class.



SACRAMENTS

- Confirmation classes are held on Sundays from 6:15-7:30 in the Center.
- Teen Sacraments classes are held on Sundays from 10:30-12 in the Verhagen building.
- All previous items in this handbook apply to students preparing for the Sacraments.

- In addition to classes, there are parent meetings, workshops, retreats, and other activities that are mandatory. Please refer to the calendar to make sure your child is able to commit to the program.
- Please adhere to the deadlines for paperwork. Failure to submit documents in a timely manner could delay the sacrament.
- A copy of a Baptismal certificate for all students receiving a sacrament this school year is due to the DRE by **September 24, 2021**. If your child was baptized at St. Rita's, or you have previously submitted a certificate, please let the DRE know.

MISCELLANEOUS

- We can always use volunteers! Please consider helping out- and don't worry, "God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called."
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Beth Greene, Director of Religious Education, at (520)762-9688 or dre@stritainthedesert.org.