



Welcome & Information Packet

2020-2021

Dear Prospective Families:

We're thrilled you are considering joining the St. Aloysius School community and are taking the time to review this information to see if we are the right fit for your child!

Since 1948, St. Aloysius School has existed as a community of parents, students, teachers, parishioners, pastor, and board members to provide children with a holistic education in a faith-based environment.

Our integration of faith in the total curriculum ideally prepares students with skills, attitudes, and values which constructively shape the individual into not only a positively contributing member of society, but also one who embodies the Christian teachings of the Gospel.

More than just an academic program, we strive to ensure our school is a place where each student can experience the best possible learning environment, can grow and challenge themselves, and can thrive in an atmosphere of respect, inclusion, forgiveness, love, compassion, and generosity toward one another.

This is something I am confident you will see as you continue to explore our school, and talk with faculty, staff, and current St. Aloysius families and students.

I realize this process of finding, deciding on, and applying to the right school for your child can feel intense and overwhelming. I want to assure you we are always available and happy to field your questions, to address any concerns, and help you decide whether St. Aloysius will be the best educational choice for your child and best community for your family.

I encourage you to visit our website, [www.sastulare.com](http://www.sastulare.com), for more information about our school community, and please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

I look forward to coming to know and work with your family as you continue to consider admissions to St. Aloysius School.

All the best,

Holly Zamora  
Principal, St. Aloysius School

# Table of Contents:

Our Mission .....	4
Fast Facts .....	5
Academics .....	6
Campus Life .....	9
Athletics .....	11
Tuition, Financial Aid & Service Commitment .....	12
Before & After School Program .....	14
General Information .....	15

## **– Our Mission –**

### **St. Aloysius School is a family of God where we can grow in Catholic Faith, Character and Knowledge.**

St. Aloysius School exists as a faith community of parents, students, teachers, parishioners, pastor, and board members to provide children with a holistic education in a faith-based environment.

The philosophy of St. Aloysius School is founded on the principle that the whole person is to be educated in an atmosphere of Gospel spirit and truth.

The integration of faith in the total curriculum prepares students with skills, attitudes, and values which ideally cultivate a personal and active faith in God and lay the foundation for a meaningful life. The goals of this philosophy embrace the dimensions of the whole person: spiritual, intellectual, social, psychological and physical.

St. Aloysius School recognizes that the Christian family is primarily and principally responsible for the education of their children. Families have entrusted the school community with the task of helping each child find their own unique place in God's creation.

## **– Fast Facts –**

Founding Year: 1948

Grades: Junior Kindergarten to 8

Total Enrolled Students: 175

Mascot: Cougar

Average Class Size: 20

Maximum Number of Students Per Class: 30

Average Teacher and Aide to Child Ratio: 10:1

High School Matriculation: 100%

## – Academics –

As a Junior Kindergarten through eighth grade school, St. Aloysius has the unique opportunity to guide a student’s formative educational process, from the earliest years to young adulthood.

Across the St. Aloysius learning journey, both scholarship and values matter, and we aim to provide the best opportunities for students in every aspect of the learning experience. Through our curriculum which is guided by our mission and delivered in a faith-based environment, students learn to think critically and act compassionately, ready to meet the challenges they will face in the future. Integrated, interdisciplinary, and framed through Christian values, the St. Aloysius curriculum offers a consistent, high quality experience for our students, at every level.

Our rigorous curriculum includes Religious Education, Physical Education, Foreign Language, The Arts, and Technology. And beyond the classroom, we offer a library, computer lab and God’s Green Garden as additional academic resources.

St. Aloysius School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the Western Catholic Educational Association.

### **Junior Kindergarten:**

Our Junior Kindergarten program consists of one classroom with its own dedicated restroom. Students are taught by one teacher who is supported by a teacher’s aide. The classroom is equipped with a full range of educational materials encouraging traditional subject learning such as reading, writing, science and mathematics; as well as rotating experiential learning centers such as a kitchen and dress-up area which encourage imaginative child-led play. The class also shares two resources with our Kindergarten class: a technology lab, equipped with Chromebooks; and an outdoor play area, dedicated to younger children.

A child must be four years old by September 1 to start school in August (children generally spend one year in Junior Kindergarten before moving on to Kindergarten). We enroll a maximum of 24 Junior Kindergarten students, and when the capacity of the class has been reached, no new students will be admitted.

According to state law, immunizations must be completed by the time a child enters school. Before beginning Junior Kindergarten, a child must also be toilet-trained, ready to separate from their primary caregivers, and willing to interact positively with children and

adults. We aim to nurture the child's interests by providing a balance of social-emotional learning and academic tasks.

### **Kindergarten:**

Our Kindergarten program consists of one classroom with its own dedicated restroom. Students are taught by one teacher who is supported by a teacher's aide. The Kindergarten academic program builds on the Junior Kindergarten experience, and begins to incorporate more teacher-led instruction and interactive lessons. Our foreign language program, supported by Rosetta Stone, also begins at the Kindergarten level. The Kindergarten learning environment provides an introduction to the academic and social emotional learning that will continue in the elementary grades. Kindergarteners also share two resources with our Junior Kindergarten class: a technology lab, equipped with Chromebooks; and an outdoor play area, dedicated to younger children.

We enroll a maximum of 30 Kindergarten students, and when the capacity of the class has been reached, no new students will be admitted. St. Aloysius Junior Kindergarten students typically fill a majority of Kindergarten openings. Selection of new students follows the following prioritization: siblings of current students, children on our school waiting list, new applicants not on the school waiting list.

The Brigance K Screen is administered to children before they are accepted into Kindergarten. Parents may place their child's name on a list of those to be tested by calling the school office at (559) 686-6250. Typically, a child is five years old by September 1 to start school in August. However, younger students may be admitted dependent upon performance on the Brigance K Screen and the discretion of school administration.

According to state law, immunizations must be completed by the time a child enters school. Before beginning Kindergarten, a child must also be toilet-trained, ready to separate from their primary caregivers, and willing to interact positively with children and adults. We aim to nurture the child's interests by providing a balance of social-emotional learning and academic tasks.

### **Grades 1-8:**

For the 2020-2021 school year: Grades 1-5 and grade 8 are each being taught by one teacher (grades 1-3 are also supported by an aide); grades 6 and 7 are being taught as blended classes with assistance from an aide.

All classrooms are equipped with a full range of educational materials encouraging traditional subject learning such as reading, writing, science, technology, engineering, arts

and mathematics; as well as experiential learning centers which encourage hands-on education.

All students in grades 1-8 participate in our foreign language program, supported by Rosetta Stone.

Grade 1 has a Chromebook Center where students can take turns with computer-based programs; Grades 2 through 8 all have full Chromebook classroom sets, one for each student.

We enroll a maximum of 30 students per class, and when the capacity of the class has been reached, no new students will be admitted.

Students in grades 1-8 have access to acres of open play area – including open grass, sports fields/courts, and playground equipment – promoting healthy lifestyles through active play.

According to state law, immunizations must be completed by the time a child enters school. A record of physical examination must be presented within 90 days of the entrance to school (for first through eighth graders). New students in grades 1 through 8 are accepted conditionally until their records are checked by the principal. After the records have been approved, the students are accepted into the school.

All new students are placed on probation for the first year. The students will be expected to meet the following requirements: prompt and regular attendance; respect for authority, other students, and property; and satisfactory academic achievement. If a child is not meeting these requirements, the parents will be notified and will be required to meet with the teacher and the principal. If no improvement is shown after three formal conferences, the child will not be allowed to continue at St. Aloysius School.



## – Campus Life –

The staff and Parents' Club at St. Aloysius work together to ensure that students feel like their school campus is a fun and safe home away from home. Throughout the year, the faith-based learning environment is enriched with fun events and activities meant to strengthen our school community – and to have some fun!

### **Activities:**

Activities such as a Halloween “Trunk or Treat,” Mother-Son/Father-Daughter Dances, and Spring School Picnic all provide our students with opportunities to let loose, get to better know each other, and enjoy the seasons and holidays of the year together.

St. Aloysius also actively participates in Catholic Schools week each year. It is a time to celebrate our faith as we have a little fun including dress-up days, student competitions, and prayer.

In addition to campus events, St. Aloysius also offers its students the opportunity to explore their interests through Student Council and clubs (Builders Club, Drama Club, and Music Club).

### **Spirituality:**

From daily prayer to Masses to special retreats and workshops, students across all grades engage with the traditions of the Catholic faith and spiritual heritage through a number of programs.

All St. Aloysius students, grades Junior Kindergarten through 8, attend weekly mass every Friday morning. Classes from grades K-8 take turns preparing the liturgy and through this hands-on experience, learn to better appreciate the parts of the Catholic Mass and what it means when we come together as a faith community to celebrate the Eucharist.

Moreover, as a way to provide our younger students with a good example of mass behavior, St. Aloysius established the “buddy program” where Junior Kindergarten students are partnered with seventh graders, and kindergarteners are partnered with eighth graders. The older students go to the younger classrooms to pick-up and escort their young buddies to mass, sit with them throughout the service, and return them to their classrooms once mass is finished. This not only creates special bonds among our younger and older students, but also fosters an environment of responsibility and respect for the sacred time during which we celebrate mass together. The program has since expanded to other “buddy” campus activities.

**Dining:**

St. Aloysius campus boasts an on-campus cafeteria, complete with a commercial grade kitchen and an on-staff chef who prepares healthy, balanced (and delicious!) meals on-site for our students on a daily basis.

A calendar of the daily menu plan is released on a monthly basis, so students are aware of what will be served when, giving families the opportunity to choose how often they'd like to purchase lunch through the cafeteria, or bring lunch from home.

Sample lunches include hamburgers, tacos, spaghetti, pizza, and a student favorite, "breakfast for lunch" featuring pancakes, eggs and bacon. Entrees are accompanied by fruit, vegetables and a small dessert; as well as milk to drink.

Families conveniently deposit funds for the lunch program into dedicated student accounts, so there is no need for money to exchange hands at the time of purchase – and no fear of lost lunch money!

## **– Athletics –**

St. Aloysius' goal of educating the whole child includes providing a well-rounded sports program. Team sports help participants learn respect for self, teammates and coaching staff; teach the value of perseverance and a strong work ethic; and show students the benefits of teamwork, comradery, and physical fitness.

St. Aloysius offers multiple team sports for its students in grades 5-8. Our students compete against other area schools, in individual games and tournaments, as a part of the PAL League of Rural Schools.

### **Girls' Sports Programs:**

Volleyball

Soccer

Basketball

Track and Field

Softball

### **Boys' Sports Programs:**

Flag Football

Soccer

Basketball

Track and Field

Baseball

## – Tuition, Financial Aid & Service Commitment –

### Tuition Fees for the 2020-21 School Year:

	<b>10 Month Pay</b>	<b>12 Month Pay</b>	<b>Annual Tuition</b>
One Child	\$484.17	\$403.48	\$4,841.66
Two Children	\$881.19	\$734.32	\$8,811.82
Three Children	\$1,191.05	\$992.54	\$11,910.48
Four Children	\$1,588.07	\$1,323.39	\$15,880.64

10 Month Payment Plan: Payments begin in August and end in May

12 Month Payment Plan: Payments begin in July and end in June

Additionally, annual registration fees are \$150 per child.

### **FACTS Tuition Management:**

St. Aloysius School uses the FACTS Tuition Management program. FACTS provides flexible payment plan options to families at private and faith-based schools. Families can budget their tuition, making private school more accessible and affordable.

All families must set up a payment account through FACTS and will incur a one-time enrollment fee of \$50. Each month, families will incur a nominal service fee at time of tuition payment.

### **Financial Aid:**

We strive to make a St. Aloysius education affordable for all students (grades K-8) regardless of financial circumstance. Amount of financial aid provided is based on availability, and is offered to families who demonstrate financial need, and apply for aid prior to the deadline.

To request financial aid, families must apply online at [online.factsmgt.com/aid](https://online.factsmgt.com/aid) and complete the application for the applicable school year. Only those applicants who complete and submit the form by the annual deadline will be considered for aid from the Diocese and school. Completing the application does not guarantee receipt of financial aid.

Deadline to apply for financial aid for the 2019-2020 school year was April 15, 2019.

The amount of financial aid available varies each year, and is only available for grades

Kindergarten through eight. The total amount available is distributed across the group of all eligible recipients. Unless your child is specifically sponsored by a donor, no one child will receive financial aid covering the entire year's tuition payment.

**Service Commitment:**

Service to the school not only strengthens our school community, but also encourages a more engaged family experience.

Families (parents, grandparents, guardians) are required to volunteer a minimum of 50 hours per year for families with children in grades Kindergarten through 8, and a minimum of 25 hours per year for families of Junior Kindergarten students. Service hours can be earned by helping out with Parents' Club fundraisers and activities, volunteering in the classroom, and serving the school. There is a \$50/hour fee for each service hour not earned by year end.

In addition to service hours, each family is also required to sell or purchase a ticket to the annual Holiday Extravaganza, and to donate one item/sponsorship in support of school fundraisers (Fatima auction, Holiday Extravaganza auction, Golf Tournament sponsorship, Horseshoe Tournament Pit sponsorship, etc.).

## **– Before & After School Program –**

St. Aloysius School is blessed to have a before-school and after-school extended care program for all of our students. Located on-campus, the program offers child care, homework help, snacks and fun at a nominal cost to parents.

This extended care program is designed to support and supplement the family by providing quality care that promotes the students' physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development in a structured environment by a nurturing staff. It serves families who desire both parochial school education and supplementary extended care in a Catholic environment for children enrolled at St. Aloysius School. It provides supervision, recreation and enrichment activities. Designated areas are set up for games, homework, craft projects, and snacks. Supervised outdoor activities are also provided.

The program is available from 7:30 A.M. to 7:55 A.M. in the mornings, and 3:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. in the afternoons (opens earlier on minimum and early-release days).

Daily rates are \$3 for before-school care, and \$10 for after-school care. If paid on a monthly basis, before-school rates range from \$30-40, and after-school rates range from \$95-100 (depending on the number of school days in the month). Discounts are provided for families who pay monthly for both before-school and after-school care (total monthly rates range from \$120-130).

St. Aloysius also offers the "Summer Experience" care during summer vacation. This experience is available not only to St. Aloysius students, but also to children of St. Aloysius Church and St. Rita's Church parishes.

## **– General Information –**

### **Tour the Campus**

Prospective parents and guardians are invited to register for a school tour to see our campus, classrooms and learn more our program offerings. You can do so by emailing [schooloffice@sastulare.com](mailto:schooloffice@sastulare.com) or calling (559) 686-6250 to set up a time that is convenient for you.

### **Attend An Open House**

Open Houses are wonderful opportunities for the whole family to learn more about St. Aloysius School. Parents and their children are invited to explore our classrooms, meet teachers and try student activities at their own pace.

We always host an open house the Sunday prior to Catholic Schools Week (typically in January or February). If you would like to visit our campus before then, please reach out to the school office by emailing [schooloffice@sastulare.com](mailto:schooloffice@sastulare.com) or calling (559) 686-6250 and we would be happy to answer any questions or set up a campus tour for you.

Reservations for our open houses are not required. Guests may drop in anytime during event hours. Call the front office for more information.

Current school students, Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten parents, and staff are looking forward to sharing their experiences and welcoming you to campus. We look forward to seeing you and your family!

### **Admissions Timeline:**

If you are interested in having your child attend St. Aloysius School, please complete a Registration Inquiry Form, available on our school website or in the school office.

St. Aloysius School accepts applications year-round, though requests that all applications for the upcoming school year be received by June 1 of that year.

April 1: Admissions determined and families notified (for grades with waiting lists). Upon acceptance, families must submit all required registration documents as well as a non-refundable registration fee (\$150 annually).