

St. Stephen Protomartyr School Dictionary

A Guide for Parents

ACE CARDS AND CERTIFICATES

This is a certificate program handled by parents who serve as volunteers. The parish acts as a broker of gift cards and gift certificates and receives a percentage of the face value for each one sold. The percentage varies according to the store or restaurant. By purchasing gift cards to be used at businesses where you would be spending money anyway, you are able to generate funds for the school. There is absolutely no cost to you; just purchase the gift card and use it as you would any other gift card. The cards and certificates also make wonderful gifts and stocking stuffers.

As part of our efforts to keep tuition as low as possible, participation in this program is mandatory for all school families. Each family is required to either purchase \$450 monthly in ACE cards/certificates or else pay an annual opt-out of \$225.

AGAPE (a-ga-pay) DINNER

This dinner is held prior to the First Communion celebration and is for the second grade students and their parents. The previous year's parents, now third grade parents, are asked to take part in serving the meal. You will receive more information about this from the second grade teacher as your child prepares for First Communion.

“ALIVE IN CHRIST”

This program recognizes and rewards students for spontaneous acts of kindness or outstanding behavior. Any teacher who sees a student exhibiting Christ-like behavior gives them a small slip of paper. The child writes his or her name on the slip and places it in a jar in the school office. A few times per month, the principal draws five slips out of the jar and those children go to the office for a small prize.

ART

During Catholic Schools Week, art is displayed at one of the local shopping malls. Our school also has its own art fair in May that correlates with Donut Sunday (first Sunday of the month).

BAND

Band is offered for students in grades 4 through 8. There is a quarterly fee due to the instructor.

BAPTISMAL DAY CELEBRATION

Four times a year, students in grades K-8 assemble in the church for a prayer service, which focuses on the remembrance of their baptism, their entrance into the church community. Students whose baptismal anniversary falls during a three-month period are called forward to receive a medal. When all have been called to the altar, they renew their baptismal promises, Father blesses them and they return to their seats. The medals are different each year. If a child attends St. Stephen Protomartyr School for nine years, s/he will have received nine different medals.

BELLARMINE SPEECH LEAGUE

Speech meets are open to students in grades 5 through 8. There are three meets per year, plus one final meet, which is held at an area high school. This meet is for the best contestants of the year. Students try out after school, and team assignments are made the day after tryouts. Parents and teachers are involved as coaches and judges. This program teaches responsibility and gives students practice speaking in front of an audience. Students, parents and teachers attend the speech meets on Saturdays. Mrs. Uttendorf moderates this club.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

General Mills has a program which sends our school cash for box tops. A parent volunteer handles this program for us. In past years, through classroom competition, we have turned in enough box tops to earn several hundred dollars. The winning classroom has received a private pizza party in the school library. Don't forget to eat a healthy breakfast, save your box tops and support your school all at the same time!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

This is a week-long celebration that begins on the last Sunday of January. The week features special activities each day that encourage children, parents, teachers and the parish family to commemorate the gifts of Catholic education. This event is observed by the entire United States.

CHORAL CLUB

Dr. David and Mrs. Anne Borgmeyer moderate the Choral Club, which is open to students in grades 3 through 8. They begin practicing for Christmas performances in the middle of November. They may go Christmas caroling at nursing homes, our Holy Name Society meeting, a local shopping mall, and other organizations who request their performance. They also join the parish choir in providing music at the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass.

ENGLISH TUTORING PROJECT

This is available to children for whom English is a second language. Classes are taught during school hours by teachers employed through the ETP.

FACULTY MEETING DAYS

Allows for in-service days for professional faculty members.

FIELD DAY

Field Day is scheduled on a Friday in early to mid-May. Carondelet Park is used if weather permits. This activity is planned and carried out by parents working with teachers. All Field Day activities are planned with the idea that students enjoy a spring day of games without being highly competitive.

FUNDRAISERS

We try to keep fundraisers involving children to a minimum.

FALL FUNDRAISER

Proceeds from any school-wide fundraisers help with the general operating fund.

GRADE 8 PLAY

The eighth grade students are involved in the production of a play under the direction of an experienced adult. This play is performed sometime in February. Students sell ads for the "Ad Book Program," make posters promoting the play, act and work backstage. The play serves as a fundraiser which helps students fund eighth grade events such as graduation and the mystery trip. All eighth grade parents are expected to participate in overseeing the production of the play.

HONOR ROLL

Honor roll spans grades 4 through 8. Each homeroom teacher maintains a list of students who qualify each quarter. The list is posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the school. All students in school can see who made the honor roll. Requirements are as follows:

First Honors: An average of 93% (an average of A-minus) or higher in the core subjects accompanied by an A or B in conduct in every class.

Second Honors: An average of 85% (an average of B-minus) or higher in the core subjects accompanied by a C or higher in conduct in every class.

Core Subjects: Religion, reading, English, social studies, math, science and spelling/vocabulary.

If a student receives a C on his or her report card, they are ineligible for first honors, but they may still be able to attain second honors. If a student receives a D or an F in any of the core subjects or a D or F in conduct in any class (including art, computer, music and physical education), he or she will be ineligible for the honor roll.

Grading Scale:

98-100	A+
95-97	A
93-94	A-
90-92	B+
87-89	B
85-86	B-
83-84	C+
80-82	C
78-79	C-
75-77	D+
72-74	D
70-72	D-
69 and below	F

JUMP FOR HEART

Each year all students have the opportunity to participate in the American Heart Association's "Jump for Heart" event. This takes place on a school day. The money collected through pledges goes to the American Heart Association for heart disease research. This activity is planned and monitored by the physical education teacher along with teachers and parent volunteers.

MISSION CARNIVAL

Mission Carnival is held on the afternoon of 'Fat Tuesday', which is the day before Ash Wednesday. Eighth grade students plan and run the games and contests. Tickets for participation are purchased in advance or on that day. Mission Carnival has two goals: to raise money for missions and to teach eighth grade students responsibility. Students in charge decide which games are to be played, make decorations, run games, help with the purchase of prizes, send out letters requesting donations and clean up after the carnival. Students are also expected to send thank-you letters to donors. Parents and younger children are always welcome at the Carnival. Mrs. Anglo supervises this activity.

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Dr. David and Mrs. Anne Borgmeyer coach selected classes to participate in the Archdiocesan Song Festival held in the spring. Different classes participate each year. The Archdiocese rotates through the grades from first through eighth, assigning two classes each year. Parents, teachers and students all enjoy this experience. Ms. Pam Holmes provides the musical accompaniment.

MUSIC SHARING

Dr. David and Mrs. Anne Borgmeyer have each class choose a favorite song that they would like to perform at our own All School Music Sharing in late May. Each class performs for the entire school, parents and friends. Dr. Borgmeyer and Ms. Pam Holmes provide the musical accompaniment. The band, directed by Ms. Ann Dolan, also performs.

OUT-OF-UNIFORM DAYS

Students are allowed to dress out of uniform for several reasons, some of which include:

1. Celebrating their birthday
2. As a reward or incentive
3. Reward for donations or canned good collections
4. Special occasions, such as picture day

Some days are “dress-up days.” On these days, such as picture days, students are encouraged to wear their “Sunday best,” and no jeans are allowed. On other out-of-uniform days, the students may wear casual clothes. At no time will the wearing of liquor logos, vulgarity or violence/gang or music group designs be permitted on T-shirts. Torn clothes or short-shorts are not permitted. If a dress down is earned either for an incentive or birthday, you must wait until Thursday to be out of uniform.

PEER LEARNING

An after school program for children in grades 5-8 who need additional help with schoolwork. The program is facilitated by Mrs. O’Brien. It is suggested that parents pay the student tutors \$5 per day.

SAFETY PATROL

Students in grade 5 through 8 who volunteer and have parental permission are trained to assist younger students in traffic areas that are considered high-risk. Our students have patrol duty at the corners of Livingston and Wilmington, Coronado and Wilmington, and the driveway entrances to the parking lots. Students should be at their assigned area from 7:30 a.m. until 7:50 a.m., and 2:55 p.m. until 3:10 p.m.

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

“Sharkbites” is the name of our school newspaper. The staff consists of students from grades 6 through 8. Students can be reporters, typists, cut-and-paste artists and distributors. Certain students are editors of the various sections of the paper. Reporters and contributors send their work to their editors who check everything and decide what will be published. This activity teaches responsibility and hones writing skills. Mrs. O’Brien is the publisher of the newspaper.

SCIENCE CLUB

The Science Club is open to fifth grade students. The club meets in the Science lab on Wednesdays for 45 minutes after school. The club's activities center on learning activities that class time does not permit.

SIX FLAGS READING CLUB

This program allows children in grades kindergarten through 6 to earn a free ticket to Six Flags by reading for 600 minutes. Some teachers may give credit for in-class reading, but the majority of the reading is to be done at home. Younger children may have an older sibling or an adult read to them. Information and forms are sent home in January or February with six weeks to complete the reading. Forms listing the books read, dates, time spent reading and parents' initials must be turned in to the homeroom teacher by the deadline on the form in order to earn the ticket. Tickets are good only for the dates specified on the ticket.

SIXTH GRADE CAMP

A special weeklong field trip is held in the spring for sixth graders only. Students spend the week with children from other schools, as well as their own classmates. Counselors are provided by the camp, and transportation is by bus. The sixth grade may hold fundraisers to defray the cost.

STUDENTS SERVING PEOPLE (SSP)

A service club open to all students who want to participate in planned service projects.

TITLE I PROGRAM

This is a program paid for by the federal government and run by a private company, which provides additional instruction to some of our children in the core subjects.