

CCD Parent Information Packet

8th Grade Confirmation Prep

September, 2022

On behalf of Fr. Homic, our Catechists and myself, I would like to welcome back all CCD students and their families. I hope that the information contained in this Parent Information Packet will be useful to you as we proceed throughout the school year. If at any time you have any questions or concerns about our CCD program, I invite you to give me a call at 345-1658. We are looking forward to another successful year of learning the wonders of the Catholic Faith.

-- Anne Fackler
CCD Coordinator

Class Dates & Time—8th grade will begin this year on September 18th. All Classes will be from 1:15 – 3:15 p.m. on 8 random dates throughout the school year. Your official 8th grade schedule is in your student's red folder.

CCD Teachers for 2022-2023—Here are the names of our CCD teachers and their classroom numbers. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to your child's teacher. They want to know all their students' parents.

8 th Grade Confirmation	Kathleen Hess, Joe Clift	119
8 th Grade Parents	Colleen Roemer	110

Mandatory Parent Attendance—As a part of this new 3-year Confirmation program, **parent attendance is mandatory for all 8 class sessions.** While both parents are invited and encouraged to attend their 30 minute session, only one parent is required to attend each time. It would be wonderful if parents could split the responsibility so that both parents could have the opportunity to experience the Chosen program. Everyone has a copy of the 8th grade Student/Parent Schedule in your red folder. Please be sure you read and understand the specific rules for your student's grade. As always, please contact Anne Fackler 345-658 if you have an extenuating circumstance and we will try to work something out for you.

Why must Parents attend each week? Our number one goal for all our CCD students is for them to be lifelong Catholics who receive the Eucharist and Penance regularly. Statistics show that only about 50 % of all CCD and Catholic school students attend Mass each week. By college, 80% of students no longer practice their faith at all. However, in parishes where parents are a part of the CCD program, Mass attendance has skyrocketed. Simply put, we feel 8 classes with you is far more effective than 26 classes without you.

Priest Visits—This year Fr. Homic and Fr. Nightingale will be teaching all the 6th - 8th grade CCD and homeschool students and their parents for the last 30 minutes of class on 3 specific dates. A complete schedule is in your red folder. As we will be a very large crowd, we will meet in the cafeteria. Fr. Homic is hoping this time together will have us meet one another and help him get to know the Confirmation students well before their pastor interview at the end of 8th grade.

Entrance to the Building—Each week the door facing the rectory garage on the west side of the school will be the only entrance and exit to the building. The front school lobby and entrance by the gym will always be locked.

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Confirmation requires 3 years of CCD—This Confirmation program is for 3-years. Students must attend our program for 6th, 7th & 8th grade to be confirmed at the end of 8th grade. We are not skipping the Faith and Life 6th grade program. The 6th grade book will be taught in small sessions during 6, 7, & 8th grade.

Sacraments occur at Home Parish, only-- In order to receive the sacraments of First Penance, First Communion or Confirmation with the other CCD and school students at St. Monica Parish, your family must be registered members of the parish by the time of CCD Registration. Later parish registrations will result in private celebrations of the sacraments or will occur at a diocesan Mass at St. Augustine's Cathedral.

Discipline Policy—Each teacher will set individual rules for their classroom. We would like to remind students and parents that we are guests in St. Monica's School classrooms. Please remind your children not to open or touch anything inside the desks or lockers. Writing on the boards is forbidden, except for teachers!

Security Policy—For safety reasons, we must keep the building locked during CCD classes. Doors will be unlocked at 12:45 p.m. and will be locked again at 1:25 p.m. They will remain locked until 2:40 p.m. when all parents arrive. If you need to enter the building between 1:25 and 2:40 p.m., we will have a parent on duty to let you in.

Inclement Weather—We will determine if the weather is severe enough to cancel CCD at least 45 minutes before class time. Please make sure the email address you give Anne Fackler on your CCD registration form is one you access and check regularly.

Textbooks—If you are a returning student, you should still have your textbooks from last year. We will be using the *Chosen* book and video series from Ascension Press for all Confirmation prep (6th, 7th and 8th grade). All 8th grade families should have both a student workbook and a parent guide. These books are to be used for **all 3 years**. A lost student book can be replaced for \$25. A lost Parent Guide can be replaced for \$10. Contact Anne Fackler if you need new books.

Absences—Of course we hope you will attend every class. However, illnesses and other emergencies do occur. If you miss class, please speak to your child's teacher. They will give you any missed material so your child can catch up with your assistance at home. Getting too far behind can be very discouraging for your child. Please be sure to review the 8th grade attendance and make-up policy on a separate sheet in your red folder. Students do not need to do homework for class sessions they make-up online.

Touching Safety Program—The diocese has decided to start a new touching safety program called the *Goretti Project*. This new program will utilize an app on your cellphone and can be used by all interested families. Teaching Touching Safety will return to the classroom sometime this year. As of yet, we have not received the new materials from the diocese. This is why it is not currently on your CCD schedule. Once we are trained and receive all the materials, I will communicate all the details to parents.