

2023 – 2024 ST. ANNE PARISH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FAMILY HANDBOOK



Found on: <https://www.holyspiritmgm.org/children-s-faith-formation>

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SESSION TIMES FOR 2023-2024

Grades K-5 & DASH 1 (6th): Meets on-campus weekly; mid-September through mid-May

Monday: 4:45 – 5:45pm OR 6:15 – 7:15pm

Tuesday: 4:45 – 5:45pm

Wednesday: 5:30 – 6:30pm

DASH 2 (7th) & DASH 3 (8th): Sundays; 5 to 7pm

DASH 2 will be on campus for 1st semester [check calendar for dates] and do remote learning 2nd semester through Google Classroom.

DASH 3 will choose either a mini course or remote learning for 1st semester and meet on campus for 2nd semester [check calendar for dates.]

EMERGENCY CANCELLATIONS

If school is cancelled in Oswego District 308 due to inclement weather, then RE and DASH sessions are usually cancelled for that day as well.

Flocknote: We will use the Flocknote system to send a text to your primary phone number and a message to your primary email address(es) to inform you when classes are cancelled due to inclement weather or emergency. ***Please be sure to inform us of any changes to your contact information.***

St. Anne Parish: Check the parish website at <http://stanneparish.org/>

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Homeschool

Homeschool will remain an option for all grade levels. It is **strongly** encouraged that students in sacramental prep years (grades 1, 2, DASH 1 - 3) be present on campus.

Homeschool content for DASH 2 and 3 will **not** match the content on campus. Thus, switching between home to campus will *not* be an option. Curriculum work is robust to do on their own. On campus sessions are 2 hours so content at home will be at least 2 hours as well. A student's academic ability will determine if it takes more or less time to complete. ***It would be beneficial to have a parent be present for each lesson.*** **If your child has an IEP, parent help will be required to modify the content to meet their needs.**

All homeschool families will be given the materials and lessons they need. All required activities must be completed and turned in for each lesson in order to advance to the next grade level.

Homeschool families are welcome to come to any special events held during class time. Please check in with your DRE to let us know you are present in the building so your child can be placed into a classroom that day.

The registration process and fee is the same for those who choose to participate in the Homeschool option as it is for students participating on campus.

Sacrament Preparation for Older Students

The sacramental preparation plan for Baptism (if needed), First Reconciliation, and First Eucharist for children in grades 3 – 9 who have had no prior religious education will include attending regular RE classes with their age-mates as well as separate sacrament preparation classes on certain Thursday afternoons. Parents of these children will be asked to attend one or more parent sessions.

**Note: A child who begins religious education for the first time as an incoming 2nd grader will be placed into a 1st grade classroom in order to follow diocesan protocol.*



D.A.S.H IS OUR JR. HIGH PROGRAM

The words that encompass DASH – Disciples Actively Striving for Holiness – gives the compass for all content, work/expectations given to our Jr. High students to develop as stronger disciples. Students are moving towards confirming, for themselves, their Baptism (which was chosen by you as parents) in Confirmation.

D.A.S.H was created specifically for St. Anne Jr. High students in 2015 to allow them to **learn information** but to do so in a group environment that allows interaction, connection, deeper conversation, and prayerful experiences. While a textbook is the backbone of all content, students are not just reading from the book.

The image about Discipleship process shows the ultimate dream for each student, each family: moving from “just belonging” to a church, to truly believing what it teaches, becoming an active member, and then living out that “beingness” of a disciple in everyday decisions. This is a lifelong process! DASH content touches especially on moving young adolescents from Belonging to Believing, while witnessing that “being” is possible by allowing our Catholic faith to be infused into all life choices/actions.

DASH 1 = (usually 6th grade) is the foundation of beliefs starting with the Old Testament
**Classes still meet weekly on weekdays*

DASH 2 = (usually 7th grade) focusing on Jesus as our God who is human and our friend
**Sessions on Sundays*

DASH 3 = (usually 8th grade) Strengthening, or starting, personal understanding of how to be a disciple for Jesus in the Catholic Church to personally desire the grace of Confirmation.
**Sessions on Sundays*
SEE NEXT PAGE for 1st semester choices

Discipleship Process

Being

- Sharing Christ
- Fruits of the Spirit
- Have an emotional healthy spirituality
- Christ Likeness

Becoming

- Knowing Spiritual Gifts
- Serving in ministry

Believing

- Spiritual disciplines: Prayer, Reading God's Word, Silence, Stewardship
- Desire to know God more
- Understanding who we are in Christ

Belonging

God

- Becoming a child of God
- Connected and making connections
 - Interdependence
- Love for the family of God

His family





NEW (optional) YOUTH OPTIONS

in addition to required DASH level sessions.

BLAZE! (DASH 2 & DASH 3 girls)

"BLAZE is a Walking with Purpose ministry that was created to counteract the way society drives girls to question their true worth and beauty. Through BLAZE, we emphasize how a girl's identity is rooted in Christ as God's chosen, beloved daughter. An antidote to bullying, anxiety, and body-image issues, BLAZE replaces lies with truth and strengthens girls from the inside out through Scripture-based learning."

Parents: quick snip [why you should encourage](#) Blaze for your daughter (or Ignite for son)

Preteens [promoting Blaze!](#)

This group meets 20 times this year (Tuesday from 4:45 – 5:45pm).

BLAZE has a 2-year curriculum, so you can enroll for one year or both!

The choice to commit **is optional and the cost is \$50 (beyond your final RE tuition) per girl to have the boxed kit of items that goes along with each lesson.**

IGNITE! (DASH 2 & DASH 3 boys)

Running on Tuesday from 4:45 – 5:45pm, 10 times from October – early January.

This counterpart to BLAZE will cover similar topics, but with concerns specific to boys and helping them in a fun and active way to embrace their identity as a beloved son of God.

Though a kit is not created, the **\$50 fee will go towards all the items the lessons asks us to buy.**



1st Semester Choices

Students will choose a Personal Learning Project which may be on campus (a mini course) or an option to do at home. All content needs to be complete by mid-December in order to move onto the on-campus sessions 2nd semester that are much more heavily Confirmation based.

PERSONAL LEARNING AT-HOME:

- 1) **BOOK:** *Why I am Catholic (and you should be too!)* This book has been used for the past 3 years. Those who *enjoy reading, are good at reading comprehension*, and want more information about many areas of faith will appreciate this book. Students will read a chapter and complete the corresponding Google doc which follows the chapter (evidence of reading/comprehension) and requires additional personal questions to connect.
- 2) **Online COURSE:** Love science? Need proof or evidence of why we believe what we believe as Catholics? The *scientific based course on faith* called **Credible Catholic** is for you! There are 7 modules to complete and all trackable once enrolled. There will be some journaling questions to complete during the module.

- 3) **LISTEN to learn:** Be prepared to be inspired by engaging Catholic **speakers on YouTube**. Almost all talks chosen are from a high school summer conference called Steubenville (thousands of high school teens go to campuses all over the USA throughout the summer.)
- a. **TEEN ONLY way:** You will listen and complete the corresponding Google doc that follows the talk. Some have a lot of question (think short answers, fill in a word) and this is to ensure you heard many key points and listened well to the whole talk.
 - b. **PARENT + TEEN option:** If a parent commits to watching the talk **with their teen** your work will be different. In Google Classroom the parent will need to provide a reflections of how the talk helped them and the teen will also answer a few questions with their parent to show they watched everything and what they gained from the talk. Some guiding questions may be given.

MINI COURSES

A new opportunity, *for a max of 60 students*, is offered on THURSDAYS from 4:15 – 5:45pm. *Attendance at ALL sessions, for the entire time, is required.*

Dates: September 28; October 6 & 19; November 2, 9, 16, & 30; December 7 & 14

#1 Mind Quest: Have questions or doubts? Get Catholic answers

*This is **not** a come to be lectured **and just listen** to the leader class time. **This is** a time to come with your questions, speak them, and engage fully in conversation with your peers. You will be learning with content from the Bible and/or the Catechism of the Catholic Church.*

#2 Heart Quest: Deepen your passion for what is right

Are you all about justice and doing what is right? Think: caring for the earth, wanting everyone to be treated justly, wanting our society to make better choices. Through a program called “Connected” this mini course will talk about that (and more!), but with a Catholic perspective because the Church is all about what is right and just for humankind!

#3 Spirit Quest: Learning with intrigue

Come to class ready to be uniquely engaged to cover some popular questions/comments in a very creative manner! Each class will be different though all are based off hot topic videos from Fr. Mike Schmitz. While your senses will be utilized in new ways, you also must come ready to talk. This isn’t a time to just listen to the presenter.

#4 Soul Quest: Discover your spiritual path!

*Deep inside each person, our soul which makes us human, knows how to best connect to our Creator. It’s our task to figure out what is our best way to pray (talk to, engage with God) and live out our beautiful gift of life. This mini course is learning about **your best way to talk to God**, your special spiritual gifts (called charisms) and about saints who put these ways into action. Choose this if you are truly committed to learn, grow, and practice the ways we will discuss.*

GENERAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

We expect that students will arrive on time and remain for the entire session so as to respect the group's learning time, and miss only in cases of illness or emergency.

If your child is ill and has missed school that day, or has a fever, please do not send them to RE/DASH. Refer to the guidelines for completing make-up work as explained under "Attendance Policy & Expectations for Grades 1, 2 & DASH"

Notification of absence is not required but is helpful especially for those in DASH 2 & 3.

If you want to let us know: call RE office at 630-554-1425 or e-mail your child's DRE.

ATTENDANCE POLICY & EXPECTATIONS FOR GRADES 1, 2 & DASH

Per Diocesan Policy, a child must attend ***at least two consecutive years of faith formation prior to receiving a Sacrament***. Thus, in order to receive Reconciliation and First Eucharist a child must be enrolled in RE for grades 1 & 2; and for Confirmation be enrolled for grades 6 – 8 (DASH 1 - 3).

While occasional absences may be necessary due to illness or other life events, these grade levels, **Grades 1, 2 & DASH 1 - 3** require completion of ALL content. So, if your child is absent, they will need to complete a make-up lesson *for any class missed*.

Grade 2: There are a few additional events to prepare your child, and you, for their upcoming Sacraments. (1) First Reconciliation Parent Meeting in October; (2) First Eucharist Parent Meeting in January; (3) Parent/Child First Eucharist Retreat in March; (4) Online Parent Courses for Reconciliation and Eucharist.

DASH 2: ***Presence at all*** on campus sessions 1st semester and ***completion of*** all other assigned curriculum 2nd semester in Google Classroom. If a child must miss a campus session (*2 absences understandable*), the full session make-up work will be assigned via email **to the parent** to pass on to and help their child. ***Work must be completed prior to next session.***

DASH 3: ***Presence at all*** on campus sessions and ***completion of*** all other assigned curriculum in Google Classroom. If a child must miss a campus session, (*2 absences understandable*) the full session make-up work will be assigned via Google Classroom. ***Work must be completed prior to the next session.***

1st semester work: Students will have a "PLC" – Personal Learning Choice to complete in the manner that matches that choice. Students who are enrolled in a mini-course 1st semester are expected to be in attendance for all dates (1 absence for illness understood), and complete make-up content. Those completing work on their own must complete all work by mid-December.

Confirmation/disciple related items outside of curriculum:

- **Prayer experiences** (done daily – but monthly reflection)
- **Discipleship Project** (a year-long project)
- **Sponsor Conversations** (monthly with topics sent to sponsors)

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

If your child does not complete the required curriculum (*in a timely manner as noted above*) **a conversation/meeting with your child's grade level DRE will determine how to proceed for the following RE year.** Please be aware that a possible consequence of these actions could be an **extension of the preparation process** (meaning a delay in a Sacrament.)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

STUDENT Code of Behavior

- ❖ Bring your textbook, folder, Bible, and/or any other materials you need **for each class**. This applies to all grade levels.
- ❖ Use the restroom **before** class begins.
- ❖ Respect the church and parish center surroundings, as well as the property of others.
- ❖ Follow the directions given by any adult in the classrooms, hallways, and church.
- ❖ Follow all verbal and posted directives. Should we ever return to a mandate for mask-wearing, or social distancing, all directives must be followed to be on campus.



- ❖ Cell phones should **NOT** be used ***in*** class **unless** directed by a catechist for some reason. ***Once class begins***, cell phones must be on silent and left in book bag. Catechists may ask for phones to be placed near them if a student is seen using it.
- ❖ Be a good listener – pay attention to whomever is speaking and raise your hand and wait for your turn to speak.
- ❖ Participate in classroom discussions and activities.
- ❖ *Taunting and bullying will not be tolerated.*
- ❖ Show respect by keeping your hands/feet to yourself and using appropriate language.
- ❖ Fidgets and other similar devices must stay in your bag.

PARENT NOTES:

DISCIPLINE: If a student must be verbally warned multiple times about his/her behavior, the child may be moved to another seat, asked to take a “timeout,” or brought to the RE Office to speak to the Director. If a child’s behavior remains a concern and is brought to the office a second time, a parent will be called to discuss the situation and seek a solution.

GUESTS: For safety and legal reasons, students may not bring a guest with them to class.

FOOD: Due to allergy concerns and sanitation issues, please do NOT send food with your children to RE classes. **Note:** *Food may be offered at times, especially to Jr. High groups, at the discretion of the DRE to reinforce a lesson or concept. All choices will avoid any anaphylactic foods for the whole group.*

2023-2024 SAFETY & SECURITY POLICY

Building

- ❖ Always enter and exit the Joachim Center through the main doors by the Parish Office. All side doors are for emergency use only. Do not open locked doors for others.
- ❖ Once classes have begun, only volunteers, students, and staff members will be allowed in the hallways.
- ❖ All adults must use the restrooms in the link between the parish center and the Church. The restrooms in the parish center hallways are for student use only.
- ❖ Anyone entering the building *during class time* will be asked to sign in and state their reason for being in the building and will be limited to the Parish Office, RE Office or the Chapel.
- ❖ Any parent/adult who needs to remain in the building during class time for special circumstances must get permission to do so from the Director of Religious Education.
- ❖ ***Any parent or other authorized adult needing to take a child home early must report directly to the RE Office*** rather than the classroom to sign out the child. A hallway monitor or aide will bring the child to the office.
- ❖ RE sessions *may* participate in an Evacuation (Fire) Drill, a Shelter in Place (Severe Weather) Drill, and/or a Lock-Down Drill during the year.



Drop-Off & Pick-Up for K - 5 & DASH 1 (Gr. 6)

- ❖ Be courteous, drive slowly, watch for pedestrians, and honor the parking cones.
- ❖ There is absolutely NO parking, waiting, or dropping students off along the curb or ***under the canopy to the church***. You must always park in a legal parking space.
- ❖ **ALL students must be walked into the Parish Center (Joachim Building) and to their classroom by a parent or other authorized adult.** No child is to be dropped off at the curb or in the vestibule.
- ❖ **Do NOT leave your child in a classroom unattended.** Wait with your child until a catechist or aide is present.
- ❖ Hallway monitors will open the hallway doors at the conclusion of each session. Please pick up your youngest child first and then proceed to your oldest child.
- ❖ Catechists/aides will not release a student at the end of class until a parent or other authorized adult comes to the classroom to get the child.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up for DASH 2 & 3 (Gr. 7 & 8)

- ❖ Sunday DASH 2 & 3 families will follow a single line drop off directly in front of Joachim Center and per the direction of parking monitors.
- ❖ **Pick-up:** Students will be dismissed TO meet parents in the parking lots at the end of the session. ***If ANY safety issues occur, we will return to indoor pickup!***