



St. Peter School Survival Guide

2022-2023

Welcome to St. Peter School!

Academic Excellence

Fostered by Catholic Tradition

Thank you for choosing St. Peter School! We are so happy that you have decided to join our school community! We put this guide together to alleviate some of the anxiety that all parents face when sending their children to a new school.

This guide is a compilation of school information and parent tips. It is not meant to replace any of the information you will receive throughout the school year - it is more of an easy-to-use guide to have over the summer to help you prepare for September.

St. Peter School is a community. There are lots of friendly, knowledgeable people who are very willing to answer your questions and lend a hand, so please do not hesitate to ask!

51 West Maple Avenue

Merchantville, NJ 08109

School (856) 665-5879

Health Office (856) 665-7121

www.stpeterschool.org

<https://www.facebook.com/StPeterSchoolMerchantville/>

https://www.instagram.com/st_peter_school_merchantville/

Communications

There are several ways that our school communicates with parents:

Website

We post **everything** to our website, which has information on staff, curriculum, PTA events and more. Bookmark it today—
www.stpeterschool.org

Notable Notes Newsletter

This will be sent home every

Tuesday electronically. The newsletter contains information about events happening at the school and the surrounding community. Important forms are usually sent home via hard copy on Tuesdays.

E-blasts

We send out e-blasts on events happening at the school. The e-blasts are great reminders for parents, so make sure we have

your current e-mail address! E-mail
ocallaghan@stpeterschool.org to be sure you are included on our list!

Social Media

[facebook.com/
StPeterSchoolMerchantville/](https://facebook.com/StPeterSchoolMerchantville/)
[instagram.com/
st_peter_school_merchantville/](https://instagram.com/st_peter_school_merchantville/)

First Days of School, Orientation & Hours

First Days of School

September 6

- Grades 1-8 Half Day (11:30 dismissal)
- Kindergarten Welcome 9:00 - 11:00 am (students & parents)

September 7

- Pre-K Welcome 9:00 - 11:00 am (students and parents)
- Grades K-8 Full Day

September 9

- Pre-K First Day - Dismissal at 11:20 am
- Full Day for K - 8

Parent Orientations

Pre-K

- September 6 - 6:30 pm

Back to School Nights

6:30 PM

Grades 5 through 8

- Monday, September 12

Grades Pre-K through 4

- Tuesday, September 13

School Day:

- K—8th grade 7:50 - 2:30
- PreK (full day) 8:00 - 2:20
- PreK (half day) 8:00 - 11:20

*K-8 Students can enter the building after 7:30 and must be in the classroom **before** 7:50. Pre-K can enter the building at 7:50.*

Snacks, Lunch and Beverages

All students will have a morning snack in the classroom. We encourage parents to pack healthy, peanut-free snacks that are easy for children to open and eat. Snacks should be packed separately from lunches. Additionally, students should

bring a clear water bottle to drink during the day.

We have contracted with School Eatery for our hot lunch program. Lunches are purchased on-line, individually packaged, and delivered to the classroom.

Lunches are provided by Chick-fil-A, Pizza Hut, Panda Express and Jersey Mike's. Information on signing up for lunch can be found on our website.

Uniforms

All students wear a uniform. Girls in grades K - 4 wear a white blouse with Peter Pan collar, a black criss-cross tie, a plaid jumper and a black sweater. They should have grey socks or tights with black Mary Jane type shoes.

Girls in grade 5 wear a grey flannel kilt, button down blouse, and a black sweater. They should have grey socks or tights with black Mary Jane or loafer style shoes.

Girls in grades 6 - 8 wear a grey flannel kilt, button down blouse and blazer with a tie and grey socks or tights. The tie is mandatory with the blazer. They should wear black Mary Jane, penny loafer, or Oxford style shoes.

Boys in grades K -5 wear a white button shirt with a tie and a cardigan sweater. They wear grey

twill pants and a black belt with black crew socks. The boys can wear a black loafer-style shoe or dress shoe with laces.

Boys in grades 6-8 wear a white oxford shirt, tie and blazer with grey flannel pants and a black belt. They have the option of black loafer style or black dress shoes.

There is an optional summer uniform which can be worn in the months of September, May and June. It consists of a black or purple knit polo shirt with SPS emblem, grey shorts with a belt, skort (girls in grades K-4), skirt (5-8), black, grey knee high socks or white crew socks and a school shoe. This can be worn by both boys and girls.

Students in grades K - 8 will also need a gym uniform. It consists of a grey t-shirt and green mesh shorts

(September, May and June) and green sweatpants and a sweatshirt (remainder of the year). Students should wear white socks and sneakers with shoelaces.

PreK students will wear the gym uniform year-round. They can wear the t-shirt and shorts in September, May and June and the sweatpants and sweatshirt for the remainder of the year. Pre-K students should wear sneakers with Velcro fasteners.

STUDENTS WHO DO NOT TIE THEIR OWN SHOE LACES MUST wear school shoes and gym shoes that do NOT require laces.

Our school uniform supplier is Flynn & O'Hara -
Garden State Pavilions
2240 W. Marlton Pike
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
(856) 931-8838 flynnohara.com

Arrival and Dismissal

Morning Drop Off Procedures (Grades K - 8)

- Drop off can begin at 7:30. Students must be in their classroom by 7:50.
- Enter through Chestnut Avenue. Pull up to the area behind the school and the church to drop off your child. A staff member will be there to assist you. Your child will enter the door closest to the parking lot (the one without the steps). A staff member will be at the door.
- Exit via Morris Street or Chestnut Avenue.
- Please note there will be **no parking** behind the church to walk your child into school.
- Students that walk to school can enter the building via Maple Avenue. A staff member will be at the door. Parents that wish to walk their children to the Maple Avenue door can park along Maple Avenue. A crossing guard will be present to assist with crossing Maple Avenue.

Morning Drop Off Procedures (Pre-K) 7:50 - 8:05

- Enter through Chestnut Avenue
- You may park and walk your child to the door on the side next to the convent. A Pre-K teacher will be outside to greet you.
- Please do not get in the car line. The car line is for Grades K-8 and should be finished by 7:50.

Afternoon Pickup Procedures (Pre-K) 2:20

- Pre-K will be dismissed outside by their teachers at their drop off door (next to convent)
- Please use caution when you exit the parking lot as some parents will still be entering the parking lot.

Afternoon Pickup Procedures (K-8) 2:30

- Enter through Chestnut Avenue ONLY on the left hand side. We do not want cars entering through the right hand side since the busses will be exiting the parking lot from that side.
- You may park behind the church and the rectory.
- Once the students have been dismissed please exit on the left hand side of the parking lot, facing Chestnut Avenue.
- Please note that you will not be allowed to utilize the rectory driveway.

Parent Teacher Association

Our PTA supports the students of our school and helps to develop a sense of community between the children, parents and staff at St. Peter's. The PTA sponsors a wide variety of fun activities and programs throughout the year. These events will be advertised through flyers and e-blasts. We have many dedicated and extremely talented volunteers on the PTA who make these events possible. They generously give their time and talents to our school to benefit our children.

There are many ways to get involved in our

PTA and you'll find that our members are very inclusive and always interested in having new families involved!

Keep checking your email for more information regarding PTA events!



SAINT PETER SCHOOL
PREK-8TH GRADE ELEMENTARY | ESTABLISHED 1927

RenWeb and Google Classroom

RenWeb is a private and secure parents' portal that allows you to view academic information specific to your child. You may view your child's grades and attendance, as well as other useful school information. You can also communicate with teachers and other school staff online whenever necessary. To access RenWeb, visit: <https://www.stpeterschool.org/communications/how-to-access-renweb/>

All teachers (K-8) will use Google Classroom to post assignments. Students will have their own school account to access these classrooms. Parents can also access these classrooms. Information on how to access Google Classroom will be presented at Back to School Night.

Before & After Care

We have an after care and before care program which is available to all students from Pre-K through 8th grade. After care runs until 6:00 pm for both full and half days of school. Segments of the program include homework, snack, projects, games and educational videos. We also have a before care program that starts at 6:30. The schedule of fees, registration forms and general information can be found on our website.

Birthdays

If you would like the class to celebrate your child's birthday in school, you may drop off a treat in the morning. Please bring something nut-free that can be easily distributed to the children (munchkins, cookies, muffins, cupcakes, soft pretzels, etc.) during snack time. Invitations to outside parties can be distributed in the classroom as long as the invitations are addressed to ALL the girls, ALL the boys, or ALL the children in the class. Most parties are the talk of school the next day and we do not want any hurt feelings.

Entering the Building

Our school is secure at all times. During school hours you may only enter through the side door closest to Maple Avenue, between the church and school. There is a white button outside the door which buzzes into the office indicating that there is a visitor. Whoever is manning the office will buzz you in. This is for the safety of our children.

Once you are in the school you must report to the office and "sign in". Please take a badge from the basket located on top of the mail slots. Next to the basket is a notebook - please sign your name, time of arrival, and the reason for your visit. Display the

badge at all times while on school property. When you leave please sign out and return the badge.

If you need to drop off something to your child during class hours, please leave it with our school secretary in the main office. Do not go directly to your child's classroom.

If you need to come to school while it is in session, please park along Maple Avenue or in one of the spaces coming from Morris Street. The main parking lot will be blocked off so that the children can participate in outdoor recess safely.

Specials

Students in grades K - 8 participate in art, music, gym, technology and STEM once a week.

Pre-K students participate in music, gym, technology and STEM.

Pre-K through grade 4 students receive Spanish instruction once a week.

Students in grades 5-8 receive Latin instruction several times a week.

Students in grades 7 and 8 participate in the weekly special. The specials rotate every quarter and consist of art, performing arts, debate and digital media.

Illness and Absences

If your child will be absent from school, please call the main office at (856) 665-5879 before 7:50 a.m. When your child returns to school, you must send in a written excuse stating the dates and reason for absence. An extended absence for illness (more than 3 days) must be explained, in writing, by a doctor. If your child will be out for an extended period of time, arrangements can be made for your child's assignments to be sent home.

Please do not send your child to school if he/she has a fever,

diarrhea, is vomiting, or has a contagious skin rash. Be sure your child is free of these symptoms for 24 hours before allowing him/her to return to school.

If your child begins to show symptoms at school, the nurse will provide general first aid and assess the health of your child. The nurse will attempt to make your child feel comfortable and keep them in school. If the nurse feels that your child needs to leave school you will be contacted. Please make sure you fill out the emergency contact sheet provided at the

beginning of the school year and include back up numbers. If any numbers change during the school year, please call the main office and let the secretary know as soon as possible.

In addition to the submission of the Medication Admission Permission Form signed by you and your physician, if your child is to be given medication in school, it must be properly labeled and in the original container. This is mandated by the State of New Jersey.



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Academic
Excellence
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Our mission is to teach, nurture, and model Gospel values in the Catholic tradition within the St. Peter School Community.

St. Peter school exists to convey the message of the Gospel and to empower children to make choices based on Gospel values. The resulting faith formation will enable students to respect themselves, others and to treasure all as God's gifts. Service is viewed as a way of life and is encouraged on all levels.

Individual excellence is promoted by the faculty as an attainable and necessary goal within the realms of each individual student's development. We champion a superior learning environment that integrates technology and artistic expression.



Welcome to the Community!

Thank you for choosing St. Peter School! Once you feel "at home" and have some free time, GET INVOLVED. Volunteering is a great way to meet people. You do not have to volunteer for a specific project - an hour here or there would be great. Your participation will make a huge difference in our community and your child will love knowing how you involved you are in their school.

We hope you find our school community to be warm, inviting and nurturing. If you have any questions at any time during the summer or throughout the year, please contact our Principal, Kathy O'Callaghan at (856) 665-5879 or ocallaghan@stpeterschool.org.

