



St. Peter's Catholic School

34 Main Street, PO Box 357

Hokah, MN 55941

www.stpetershokah.org

(507) 894-4375

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. Peter's School! We know your child's educational experience here will be a positive and enjoyable one for you and your child. Many activities take place at St. Peter's School throughout the year. These activities help build friendships among our children and with us parents. Being new to the school, or having been here awhile, some of these things may be quite overwhelming and you may feel that you always have a question about something. It is our hope that this handbook will help answer some of those lingering questions that may arise throughout the year.

This handbook is a compilation of answers to questions that have been asked by many parents over the years. We felt it was important to put this information together to assist families of St. Peter's School. You certainly may have other questions that are not addressed here. Our advice to you - **Don't be afraid to ask!**

We hope your relationship with St. Peter's School will be strong and long lasting. Our children are our greatest resource. The faith-filled environment in this school teaches our children to love and respect one another and gives them the opportunity to practice these values daily. Parents and staff need to work together to ensure quality education for our children.

We hope you find this handbook helpful.

St. Peter's PTO

Parent Teacher Organization

- August
 - Hospitality Committee welcome calls to new school families: Call new parents and welcome them to St. Peter's. Also, answer any questions they may have.
 - Back to School Open House: Volunteers help greet, set up/take down tables and serve food.
- September
 - School Marathon: Scheduled for last Saturday or Sunday of September, has volunteer mile marker attendants and finish line refreshments.
 - **Note: 25% of profits directed to PTO to pay for field trips**
- October
 - Apparel Orders.
 - Roast Beef Dinner: Scheduled for 2nd Saturday in October, many volunteers needed (Watch for Sign up Genius).
 - Trunk or Treat: come to the school parking lot with your trunk decorated and hand out candy on the day of our Halloween parties to students.
- December
 - Holiday Scrip Cards for Teachers & Staff: To show our appreciation for all they do for St. Peter's Catholic School!
 - Christmas Music Program Reception: Families bring plates of snacks and treats for everyone to enjoy after the program. PTO provides beverages and serving.
 - Christmas Workshop: Students enjoy shopping for their family or friends and get items gift wrapped. All items are \$1. Gift items are donations. Money earned is used to purchase items for the next years' workshop.
- January/February
 - Family Fun Night/Dance: Scheduled during Catholic Schools Week which is the last week of January/first week of February.
- February/March
 - Lenten Fish Fry's: Many volunteers needed. (Watch for Sign up Genius.)
- March or April
 - Extravaganza, many volunteers needed!
- April
 - Drama Club: Marketing/Tickets/Concessions.
- May
 - Softball/Kickball Game: PTO provides freebies for all the kids.
 - Teacher Appreciation Week.
 - End of the Year Picnic: Coordinate meal with cook, games with teachers, etc.....

We have plenty of events and parent involvement opportunities for everyone to participate in. Kids love it when their parents come to school....it gives them a chance to show them off to the other kids. Other opportunities for parents to be involved in St. Peter's School and Parish will be emailed in a Sign-up Genius link throughout the year. Mid-summer an email survey will ask each family to volunteer for PTO in two areas you would be interested in. Above is a general school year timeline of volunteer activities with further details later in this document.

Catholic Schools Week: Catholic Schools Week is typically held the last week in January, but please check the school calendar for exact dates and activities. The teachers plan many fun activities for the children throughout the week. Some of these may include a talent show, dress up days and sporting events with the teachers. Remember you are welcome to school for these events. All the children are encouraged to participate in these special activities.



Christmas Music Program: This is a wonderful tradition that is sure to make you proud of your child and the school itself. The Christmas music program is held on a Sunday afternoon after Sunday Mass.

Christmas Workshop: This is a special day in December when the students get to shop for the special people in their lives for Christmas. Everything is \$1, and they even get their gifts wrapped. All the items at the workshop are either donated or purchased from previous years' workshop funds. This is the day to volunteer if you want to help be one of Santa's elves who likes to wrap gifts or help shop.

Communication: Communication is necessary as we continue to strive to improve our school and ensure a quality education for our children. There are several opportunities that parents can take advantage of to express ideas, ask questions, or have concerns addressed.

1. Get to know the members of the School Board and the PTO members. The majority of these people had or have children in St. Peter's School. There is a wealth of knowledge with this group of people and all are willing to help out in any way they can. School board information can be located on our website at www.stpetershokah.org.
2. Get involved in the school PTO committees. This is your opportunity to have a voice in your child's school. New ideas are always welcome. The PTO meetings and fundraisers are a chance to get to know fellow parents as well as staff members. Contact a member of the PTO board if you are interested in becoming part of this organization. PTO information can be located on our website at www.stpetershokah.org.
3. Attend the School Board meetings. These meetings are the first Thursday of the month. The meetings are noted in the bulletin and participation is welcome. If there is a particular item you would like discussed and have put on the agenda, please contact the school secretary or any board member.
4. Participate in the various parent involvement areas that take place throughout the year. Whether it is helping in a classroom, library, volunteering, or being a chairperson of a fundraiser, you will be involved in what is happening at St. Peter's School and become friends with many other people doing the same thing.



Drama Club: Students in grades 3-8 are welcome to participate in Drama Club. This is an after-school activity run by Mrs. Theresa Von Arx. Practices begin mid-to-late February and are held after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 pm – 4:30 pm. Our performance is held in mid-late April. Parents are needed to help with marketing, ticket sales, and concessions.

EXTRAVAGANZA

Extravaganza: This is our largest fundraiser of the year. Everyone is invited to a fantastic meal followed by a live and silent auction. This event has some adult beverages for you to enjoy. It is a wonderful night for everyone to have fun and support our school.

Field Trips: The children go on various field trips throughout the year. A field trip permission form was in your registration packet. Parents are informed in advance of a field trip, where and when they are going, and what time they leave/return. Teachers send home specific information on the event they are going to and any additional information you'll need to know – like if they will need to bring a sack lunch or money. Please have your child dress appropriately as some events take place outside while it is wet and cold. There is a one-time field trip fee paid when school starts that will cover the majority of the field trip cost for the school year. The St. Peter's PTO covers all transportation costs. If you would like to chaperone a field trip, the Diocese requires you to take the "Protecting all of God's Children" Course.

First Confession and First Communion (2nd grade): Students prepare to receive their First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist in second grade. Prior to receiving each of these sacraments, students and parents share an hour of learning centers. The centers are approximately one week before each sacrament and contain fun projects and activities. The student is to attend these learning centers with a parent or guardian. First Confession is held in December, and students receive their First Communion in late April.

Hot Lunch Visitors: Any parent is welcome to come have lunch with their child. Simply call the school secretary by 8:15 am in the morning and let them know you are coming for lunch. The kitchen only prepares enough food for the students and visiting guests. You can have the amount added to your family's lunch account. You can also bring a sack lunch. Lunch begins at 11:30 am. You can wait by the lunch line until your child's class comes down, and then join your child with his or her class.

KC Marathon: It is usually held the last Saturday or Sunday in September at the Houston Nature Trail. Families are asked to obtain pledges to walk/bike along with their children on the nature trail. Children can earn prizes for a certain amount of pledges they obtain. This is a great way to start off the school year and meet the kids, as parents are encouraged to walk along with their children.

May Crowning Mass: This special Mass is held the first Thursday of May at the 8:25 Mass. The Mass is in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Children are asked to bring flowers to Mass to honor Mary. We conduct the crowning out at the grotto and the kids place their flowers by the statue of Mary. Please do not feel you need to buy flowers for your child to bring. Any flower is fine-any type that is out at this time. This is a beautiful Mass to attend if you are able to do so, and the children wear their Sunday best. Any questions about this event can be directed to your child's teacher.



Roast Beef Dinner: This event takes place the second Saturday of October. Our parish and school take pride in this annual event. The committee has perfected the homemade dressing process over the years, and people come from near and far for our delicious meals. The meal is served as carry outs as well as in the school gym. The meal is a complete roast beef dinner with potatoes, vegetables, rolls, and all the trimmings. Families are asked to help the day of the dinner or on the days prior.



School Picnic: The annual school picnic signals the last day of school. The picnic is held at the park in Hokah or at the ball diamond, beginning around 10:00 am and ending at 12:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to run games/activities and serve lunch. Parents and preschool children are always welcome to attend.

Special Masses: Throughout the school year, each classroom will have Special Masses that they will plan and participate in. The teachers will send home a note with your child letting you know when their class's Special Mass is. If your child has a reading part in the Mass, they may need to practice at home, especially if he or she is a younger reader. Any questions about these Masses can be directed to your child's teacher.

