



SACRAMENTS SERVICE SAINTS SPIRIT SCHOLARSHIP

September 9, 2026

Dear St. Anne's families:

Our 2026-27 school year is off to a great start. Teachers are actively engaging their students in their lessons and activities at all levels, and there is a very focused and positive vibe throughout the school. The key is to maintain it!

The partnership between home and school is not just a cliché. It is a real expectation that we at school are reinforcing the values of kindness, effort, respect for others and a love for God and our Faith that are taught at home. It is a real expectation that parents support their children's teachers and encourage independence, effort, and at times even resilience in the face of struggles that we all face when learning new things, meeting new people and having new experiences. Much has been written recently about what's missing in this new generation and even in this new labor force. We speak often about the difficulties and challenges of raising a generation engrossed in technology and social media. What we've all come to realize, and what we all need to value and emphasize is the importance of commitment, resilience, respect for rules and the law, and interpersonal connections (people skills). These things don't just happen. They are the product of communication and collaboration between home and school and they start at the earliest ages. Attendance and being on-time matters. Understanding rules and expectations matters. Being fair, supportive and compassionate matters. Being prepared and dedicated to doing your best matters. These are the things we speak about and need to model as a faculty, just as we trust they are spoken about at home. The sacrifice you are making to send your children to us here at St. Anne's is never taken for granted. It is our desire to work hard alongside you, in developing kind, hard-working, cooperative and collaborative children who have the ability to think critically, solve problems, and develop their talents to their fullest. Our mission is also to help them love God and to live their Faith.

At St. Anne's we will continue this year to minimize the importance of screens and technology, emphasizing, particularly in kindergarten through grade 4, the importance of handwriting, reading actual text, speaking and listening skills, in addition to foundational mathematical / computational skills. You will continue to hear more from your child's teachers on each grade level about our emphasis on literacy skills and the many ways we will look to strengthen and enhance each child's skills. On the middle school level, opportunities abound in the arts and athletics, our literary magazine, as well as in our incredibly successful Aquinas Science Research Teams.



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We look to our older students, particularly in grades 7 and 8 to serve as role-models for the rest of the school. They serve as helpers and mentors to the younger students and we encourage their leadership in facilitating assemblies and serving as ambassadors for their school. Our goal is to prepare them for all aspects of high school and beyond.

We will begin practicing all of our safety drills this week, ensuring that everyone understands the importance of what it means to maintain a safe and healthy school environment. Our friends in the Garden City Police Department and Nassau County Department of Homeland Security are always helpful as a presence and constant source of support to us here at St. Anne's.

I would like to remind you that Back to School Night is next Tuesday evening, September 15th starting at 7:00pm in St. Anne's Church. This is a great opportunity to meet the teachers and staff who work with your children each day, and to also meet the wonderful parents of our Home School Association who are so incredibly supportive of all of our efforts here at St. Anne's. So many new families mentioned to us upon enrollment at St. Anne's that they were looking forward to joining and becoming part of a true "community." Our HSA is the best way I know to make that happen. You will make friends, get to know the parents of your children's classmates, and you can contribute to whatever degree your schedule allows in helping the many school and social events and activities come to life.

Finally, as we approach the 25th anniversary of 9/11 on Friday, we will observe a moment of silence that morning, praying for and recognizing all police officers, firefighters and first responders. While an historic day for our nation, we want to be sensitive in how, and to what degree the events of that day are discussed, always in an age appropriate manner. With the primary grades, the emphasis is on "looking for the helpers and recognizing the heroes in our lives." At the middle school level, a greater understanding of what occurred can be broached. We want you to be aware so that you, as parents, can determine how you wish to continue the conversation. We thank you for your support and understanding as together we guide our children through difficult topics. We want to instill within our children a love and respect for their country, just as they love and respect their families and their Faith.

Respectfully,

Dr. Thomas J. Fasano
Principal