

2026-2027
SCHOOL YEAR

St. Monica Back to School Guide



STMONICASCHOOL.ORG

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Welcome

Dear St. Monica Families,

Welcome to the start of another exciting school year at St. Monica Catholic School! I am truly delighted to welcome back our returning students and families, and to extend a warm Bearcat welcome to those joining our community for the first time. I hope your summer was filled with rest, joy, and meaningful time with loved ones.

At St. Monica, our mission is to nurture each student in faith, knowledge, and character, guiding them to become confident, compassionate, and well-rounded individuals. As we begin this new school year, we look forward with great anticipation to the many opportunities ahead—opportunities for growth, discovery, and deepening our shared commitment to faith and excellence.

This year promises to be filled with meaningful experiences, academic achievements, and moments that will shape lasting memories for our students. Together, as a faith-filled community, we will continue to support one another and inspire our children to reach their fullest potential.

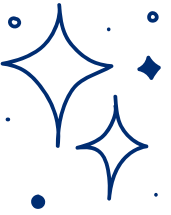
I encourage each family to remain actively engaged in the life of our school. Your partnership is a true blessing and plays an essential role in your child's success. We are deeply grateful for your trust and for the opportunity to walk alongside you in your child's educational journey.

May this be a joyful and fruitful year for all. We look forward to all that God has in store for our St. Monica community.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead!

God Bless and Go Bearcats!
Stephanie Garza, Principal

Dates to Remember



Date	Event	Details
Tues, Aug. 11	New Family Orientation	Pre-K: 9 AM/K-8: 10 AM
Tues, Aug. 11	Meet the Teacher	12 PM-2 PM
Wed, Aug. 12	Parent Welcome Back Mass & Coffee*	8 AM, Church - *Family Center after Mass
Fri, Aug. 14	First K-8 School Mass:	9:15 AM, Church
Sat, Aug. 15	Back to School Picnic	6-9 PM, Gyms

Mark
your
Calendar

Back to School Nights (Parents Only)

BACK
TO
SCHOOL

Date	Grade Level	Time
Mon, Aug. 17	Pre-K3 - Pre-K4	6:00-7:30PM
Tues, Aug. 18	K - 2 nd	6:00-7:30PM
Wed, Aug. 19	3 rd - 5 th	6:00-7:30PM
Thurs, Aug. 20	6 th - 8 th	6:00-8:30PM

Weekly Mass Begins*



Fri, Aug. 14: K - 8th
*Mass Uniform Required

Fall Pictures*



Date	Grades
Tues, Aug. 25	PK - 3 rd
Wed, Aug. 26	4 th - 8 th
*Uniform Required	

General Information

School Hours & Early Dismissals



Grade	Hours	Early Dismissal*
Pre-K	7:50AM - 2:50PM	11:50AM
Kinder - 3 rd	7:50AM - 3:10PM	12:10PM
4 th - 8 th	7:50AM - 3:25PM	12:25PM

**No lunch is served for K-8 students on Early Dismissal Days*

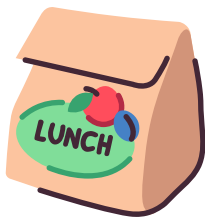
Attendance Procedures

- **Late Arrival:** After 7:50AM, PK-8 students must enter through McManus
 - Please do not drop students off behind McManus after the gates are closed or in front of the cafeteria.
- **Early Release:** Parents must email attendance@stmonicaschool.org and the homeroom teacher
 - K-8 students should be picked up before 2:30 PM in McManus
- **Absences:** Email attendance@stmonicaschool.org before 8:45AM

Lunch Program K - 8th

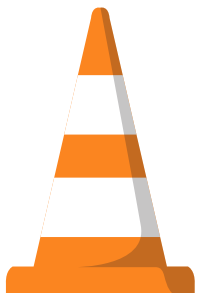
Students have the option to bring their lunch or purchase lunch from our food service vendor, Crave-It.

Please [click here](#) to get more info about our lunch program.



Safe Environment Training

- Required for all volunteers
- Badges must be current & visible while on campus
- All badges expire annually on August 31st
- Go to stmonicachurch.org/safe-environment to learn more
 - The process for new families takes a little longer and should be started before school begins
- Any campus visitor without a Safe Environment badge must present a valid state ID to be run through our Raptor system
- **Questions??:** [safeenvironment@stmonicaschool.org](mailto:safeenvironment@stmonicachurch.org)



General Information

School Clinic Info

Patricia Rodriguez, R.N., - prodriguez@stmonicaschool.org

The clinic is located in the C-wing near the playground. Services provided by the clinic include first aid, managing medical emergencies, administering prescribed medication, and monitoring ill students until a parent arrives to pick them up.



All medical forms can be found and downloaded under the "[Parents](#)" tab on stmonicaschool.org.

We can administer over-the-counter (OTC) medications (e.g., Advil, Tylenol). **The permission form isn't online; please email the Nurse for a copy.** OTC meds must be in their original container, and send the smallest bottle possible due to limited storage. Please see the handbook for more details.

After School Care Program



Lisa Bell - After School Care Program Coordinator, lbell@stmonicaschool.org

Steffeny Montpas - After School Care Program Billing, smontpas@stmonicaschool.org

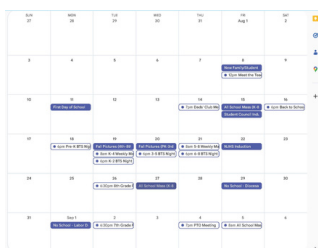
- Open to Pre-K - 8th students, must be registered (no drop-ins)
- \$30 yearly registration fee for students
- Limited availability
- To learn more & register, go to stmonicaschool.org/after-school-program

Calendars

Perpetual Calendar



Google Calendar



- **Perpetual Calendar** - found under stmonicaschool.org/quicklinks
- **Google Calendar** - found under stmonicaschool.org/quicklinks or on the home page of stmonicaschool.org
 - [Click here](#) for the link to subscribe to our Google Calendar
 - **iPhone:** Tap the Settings icon, then scroll down and select Mail, Contacts, Calendars. Select the Add Subscribed Calendar option, fill in the Google Calendar URL in the Server box, and click Next.
 - **Android:** is a two-step process. Add the calendar using the web version of Google Calendar, then add it to your Android device. Click the plus sign next to Other calendars, then select From URL. In the URL of calendar field, enter the URL to your subscribed calendar.

Mass Times for Students:

Kinder-8th grade - Fridays @ 9:15 AM

Any changes in Mass times will be communicated to parents.

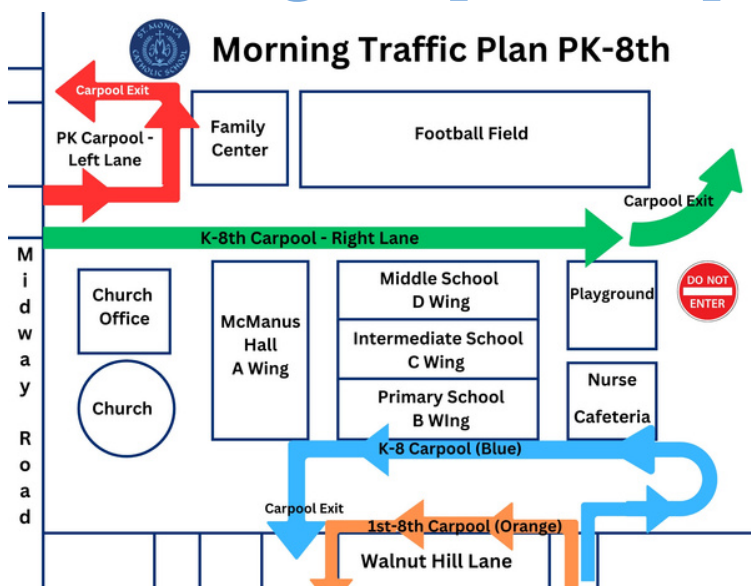
Please note that church doors lock at 9:15 AM for school Masses. Once the doors are locked, no one is permitted to enter the church.

Carpool



Carpool	Arrival & Dismissal Times	Location
Morning (Early Arrival)	7:00-7:30AM	PK: Family Center K-8 th : Cafeteria
Morning	7:30-7:50AM	See Carpool Maps
Afternoon (Early Dismissal)	PK: 11:50AM K-3 rd : 12:10PM 4 th -8 th : 12:25PM	See Carpool Maps
	Carpool signs are required everyday for afternoon pickup	
Afternoon	PK: 2:50PM K-3 rd : 3:10PM 4 th -8 th : 3:25PM	See Carpool Maps
	Carpool signs are required everyday for afternoon pickup	

Morning Carpool Map



Grades K-8th:

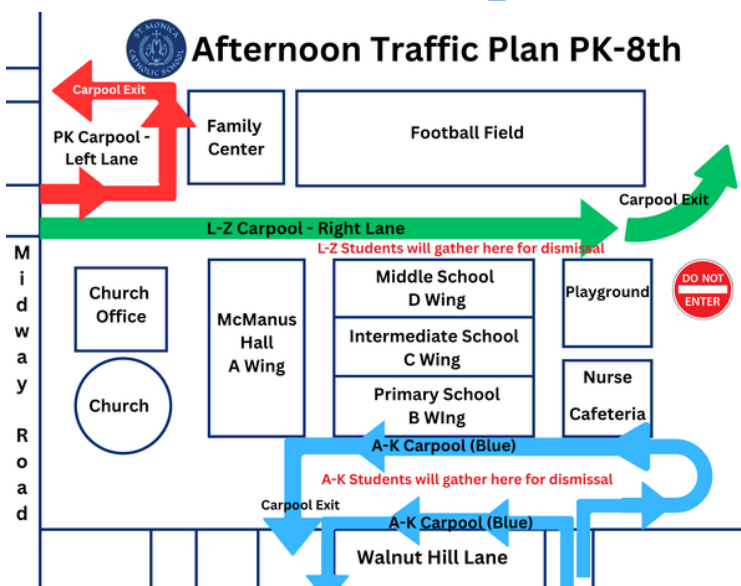
Use the **Walnut Hill** (either lane) or the **Midway Entrance**

K-8: 7:30-7:50 AM

PK uses the **Midway Entrance**, form one line (stay to the left). Pull up to the double doors (facing Midway)

PK: 7:30-7:50 AM

Afternoon Carpool Map



Grades K- 8th:

Last Name A-K (use the Walnut Hill entrance, form 2 lines, shown w/blue arrows)

Last Name L-Z (use the Midway entrance, form 1 line, shown w/green arrow)

K- 3rd with older siblings dismiss at 4th-8th dismissal time

Pre-K dismiss from the east side of the Family Center

Communications

Be In The Know...



Catherine Hull - Director of Communications, chull@stmonicaschool.org

- **Facts Family Portal:** Access tuition, directory, & grades
- **Bearcat Byte:** Weekly e-newsletter (*Archived under [Quick Links](#)*)
- **Emails:** From teachers, staff, and homeroom parents
- **Parent Alert:** Emergency texts and urgent updates

We're Social – Follow Us



[@stmoniacatholicschool](https://www.facebook.com/stmoniacatholicschool)



[@stmoniacatholicschooldallas](https://www.linkedin.com/company/stmoniacatholicschooldallas)



[@stmonicaschooldallas](https://www.instagram.com/stmonicaschooldallas)



[@stmonicabearcat](https://twitter.com/stmonicabearcat)

Bearcat Athletics

Daniel Neves - Athletic Director, dneves@stmonicaschool.org

St. Monica competes in the Dallas Parochial League (DPL). Eligible for students in 5th–8th grade.

How to Participate

1. Register for your sport via the [Athletics Page](#)
2. Pay the required fee
3. Complete [Athletic Physical Form](#)
4. Meet academic requirements (*per DPL and school policy*)

Sports Offered: Baseball, Basketball, Cheer, Cross Country, Football, Futsal, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball

Want to Coach?

- Must attend DPL “Play Like a Champion” workshop
- Email Daniel Neves to sign up: dneves@stmonicaschool.org

Just a reminder, volunteers are needed for every home game.

This includes basketball, football, futsal, and volleyball.

Want to help out? Email: dneves@stmonicaschool.org



Parent Involvement

St. Monica is fortunate to have a very engaged parent community led by our Dads' Club and PTO.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)



Anne Cummins - PTO President, stmonicaptopresident@gmail.com

- Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month (Sept.–May)
- Visit [PTO Website](#)

Dads' Club



Sam Ackels - Dads' Club President, president@stmonicadadsclub.org

- Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month (Aug.–May)
- Visit [Dads' Club Website](#)

Community Events

Date	Event	Location
Thur, Aug. 13	1st Dads' Club Meeting	7PM, Sparkman Clubhouse
Fri, Aug. 14	Bearcat Annual Fund Kick Off	
Thur, Sept. 3	1st PTO Meeting	7PM, Family Center
Sun, Sept. 27	Spaghetti Dinner	School Cafeteria
Sat, Oct. 17	Autumnfest	12–9 PM, Dave Gross Field
Early Nov.	St. Monica Christmas Angels	
End of Nov.	St. Monica Staff Christmas Purse	
Thur, Dec. 3	Merry Market	5PM, Family Center
TBD	Dads' Club Gala	TBD
Early May	Dads' Club Golf Tournament	TBD
Sat, Jun. 5	Legacy Live Concert	6PM, Stokers Ice House

**COMING
SOON!**

How to Get Involved

Our St. Monica community is truly amazing, and we'd love for you to get involved! There are so many fun ways to participate throughout the year. Below, you'll find brief descriptions of the different opportunities available. Whether you can share your time, talents, or resources, every bit helps and makes our community even stronger! Make sure to check the Bearcat Byte for more details.



Bearcat Annual Fund

The most important fundraiser of the year. Donations go directly to support classroom instruction, student resources, and school operations. Funds are raised to bridge the gap between the cost to educate each student and the tuition collected. Tuition only covers about 80% of the cost to educate our students. Our goal is to have 100% family participation.



Spaghetti Dinner

A beloved tradition! Join us for a fun family day with spaghetti, homemade Italian sausage, and St. Monica football—all served by our amazing dads.



Autumnfest

Our annual school carnival and the PTO's biggest fundraiser. Proceeds fund student events and cherished school traditions. Don't miss the Autumnfest Raffle — your chance to win a \$10,000 gift card! Every ticket supports our school.



Staff Christmas Purse

Make holiday giving easy—donate once, and your contribution is shared among all teachers and staff as a Christmas gift. These gifts are made instead of classroom collections or individual gifts.



Christmas Angels

Homerooms typically adopt at least one angel and ask students to bring items to fulfill the angel's wishlist. Our angels are elderly individuals and needy children from families in our local area, vetted through the church.



Merry Market

The Thursday after Thanksgiving, this festive shopping event supports local vendors and PTO programs. Find unique gifts and support our community.



Dads' Club Gala

The biggest Dads' Club fundraiser of the year. Enjoy a fun evening while supporting school needs and student programs.



Dads' Club Golf Classic

Held in early May, this annual event brings dads together to celebrate the work and dedication of Dads' Club initiatives for the school year.



Legacy Live Concert

Join us for a concert event focused on bringing together alumni, families, and community members for an evening of music, memories, and giving back to honor our school's legacy.