



OF SAINT SEBASTIAN

**2016 - 2017**

# **Pathfinder**

## INTRODUCTION

The Pathfinder was developed by the St. Sebastian School office, the Education Committee, and the Home & School Association as a reference for school families. Within these pages you will read about the wonderful and exciting activities and events that take place at St. Sebastian School. You will also discover the many ways you can be involved in your children's school life. You may choose to bake a dessert, assist with an ongoing activity or fundraiser, join a committee, or chair an event. Whatever you choose, the rewards will be priceless. We are our children's first and foremost teachers; what better way to teach them than by our own example of stewardship!

*I wish to stress that parents cannot be disinterested in the education of their children, but it is necessary that they become even more aware that the school does not exempt them from their mission, but aids them in fulfilling it; and that they are the first educators of their children. Therefore, the harmonious collaboration between family and school is indispensable: Both united in the impassioned task of forming men and women.*

**-Pope John Paul II, January 1983**

## ST. SEBASTIAN HOME & SCHOOL

### MISSION STATEMENT

St. Sebastian Home & School is an association of parents and staff who work together to build and maintain education, social connections, appreciation, fundraising and communication. Home & School is committed to supporting the integration of Christian values between home and the academic life of all students. Recognizing that the family is central in a child's life, Home & School encourages and facilitates family-to-family peer support and communication. The Home & School Association is a vital and active part of St. Sebastian School.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Home & School is open to each school family. Part of the registration fee includes dues to Home & School.

### COMMITTEE

The Executive Board currently is comprised of: Chairperson, School Principal, Treasurer, Secretary, Faculty Representative, Grade Liaisons and Chairs of the following committees:

- Communications
- Time & Talent
- Fun & Fellowship
- Loaves & Fishes
- Fish Fry

### FUNCTIONS

#### **Fundraising:**

Home & School is the primary fundraising body for the school. There are major fundraising programs sponsored by Home & School, such as fish fry, annual magazine sale, spirit wear sales and book fairs. *The association projects revenues from fundraising efforts and will declare a specific amount to be turned over to the parish on a yearly basis.*

**Communication:**

Home & School provides information to parents through mandatory All Parent Meetings, association meetings and newsletters. Association meetings are held monthly throughout the academic year and are open to all. The Buzz Book, a school resource book and phone directory, is produced by Home & School and made available to all families. Parents serve as Grade Liaisons who provide the much needed communication link between Home & School and the parents of the students in the grade they represent.

**Collaboration:**

Home & School promotes cooperation between and representation at organizations working for the advancement and appreciation of Christian education.

**Fellowship:**

Home & School promotes fellowship through special events and programs such as parent coffees, Grandparents' Day and High Interest Day. Home & School provides an opportunity for parents to share their time and talent and coordinates volunteer efforts. In addition, Home & School provides cards/flowers/memorials to staff and families as the need arises.

**Appreciation and Recognition:**

Home & School is the vehicle for teacher and staff recognition and appreciation. Staff birthdays are recognized, staff appreciation luncheons and dinners are provided, and staff gifting is coordinated.

## 2016-2017 HOME & SCHOOL OFFICERS

**Chair: Maddalena Stephenson (259-5012)**

Serves as a liaison to the Principal. Prepares agendas, facilitates monthly meetings and is a resource to all other Chairs.

**Vice Chair: (OPEN POSITION)**

Acts as an aid to the Home & School Chair and facilitates the new family mentoring program. Also, facilitates the nomination and election process for vacancies for the upcoming school year.

**Treasurer: Katie Sanders (608-358-3835)**

Responsible for all Home & School funds and makes approved payments. Assists in preparing the annual budget and monthly income/expense reports. Assumes the role of the Chair in case of absence or disability. Also coordinates staff holiday gifts.

**Secretary: Catherine Bresser (456-9088)**

Maintains accurate Home & School meeting minutes and publishes them in the school newsletter. In addition, oversees publication of the yearly Buzz Book.

**Communication Coordinator: Melissa Rivera (324-0835)**

Communicates Home & School activities to the school, parish and community at large and coordinates the grade liaisons. Publishes the Home & School newsletter which includes upcoming events and recognition of volunteers. Serves as website liaison, and oversees the Home & School bulletin board (in the school office) and the 55<sup>th</sup> Street school sign. Also, oversees hospitality for All Parent meetings and other Home & School functions.

**Time and Talent Coordinator: Danica Potier Brown (262-385-1742)**

Maintains school volunteer database and updates the Pathfinder on an annual basis. Assists committee chairs with coordinating volunteers for Home & School events. Also, serves as liaison to parish Stewardship Committee.

**Fun & Fellowship Coordinator: Cindy Navarro (3058-1627)**

Oversees teacher appreciation events, staff birthdays, parent coffees, auction Christmas cookies, auction baskets, Grandparents' Day, the end of the year event and other community building events.

**Loaves & Fishes Coordinator: Leah Sealey (774-0836) and Gloria Rios (257-2477)**

Promotes and oversees the annual "magazines and more" sale, spirit wear sales, book fairs, Labels for Education GM Box Tops, Tyson Project A+, ink cartridges/cell phones, Earth Day can collection, Scraps for Schools, Auction baskets and all other fundraising activities.

**Fish Fry Coordinator: (OPEN POSITION)**

Oversees fish fry. Serves as liaison between Home & School committee and Fish Fry committee. Coordinates advertising and volunteers. Assists in the recruitment and mentoring of Fish Fry coordinator replacement.

**High Interest Day Chair: Scott Welak (262-853-1271)**

Oversees the planning and coordination of High Interest Day activities.

## 2016-2017 EVENT AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>Academic Honors Award Reception</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parents	-----
<b>Auction baskets</b>	Kelly Bentfield	414-530-5380
<b>Auction Christmas Cookie Bakers</b>	Lena Stephenson	414-259-5012
<b>Box Tops</b>	Heather Koppa	414-475-6036
<b>Buzz Book</b>	Kim Nistler	414-217-6711
<b>Chess Club</b>	Jeff Klarer	414-852-6365
<b>Country Springs Water Park passes</b>	Leah Sealey	414-774-0836
<b>End of School year event</b>	Katie Suminski	414-241-8008
<b>Fish Fry Volunteer Coordinator</b>	OPEN	414-475-6499
<b>Forensics</b>	Kathy Kirkpatrick	414-774-6963
<b>Grandparent's Day</b>	Home & School	-----
<b>High Interest Day</b>	Scott Welak	262-853-1271
<b>High Interest Day (K4/K5)</b>	K4/K5 Parents	-----
<b>Ink Cartridges/cell phones</b>	Dave Blanchard	414-259-1980
<b>Krispy Kreme</b>	OPEN	-----
<b>Lunchtime Volunteer Calendar</b>	OPEN	-----
<b>Magazine &amp; More Sale</b>	Colleen Poggenburg	414-607-1976
<b>Mileage Club</b>	Leah Sealey	414-774-0836
<b>New Family Mentoring program</b>	Joe & Rebecca Desch	414-456-9753
	Brent & Kim Nistler	414-217-6711
	Jenny O'Neil	414-607-0189
<b>Open House Hospitality</b>	Jen Dodridge	414-873-2968
<b>Rainbow Booksellers Book Fair (Fall)</b>	Patty Higgins	414-258-9536
<b>Readers are Leaders</b>	Patty Higgins	414-258-9536
<b>Rosie Reader Program</b>	Wendy Conklin	414-873-8852
<b>Scholastic Book Fair (Spring)</b>	Stacy Rebholz	262-370-6431
<b>School sign</b>	Catherine Bresser	414-456-9088
<b>Scrap metal Drive/Aluminum Can Drive</b>	Scott Hardy	414-453-5303
<b>Spiritwear</b>	Rebecca Desch	414-456-9753
<b>SS Reader</b>	OPEN	-----
<b>Sunshine Club</b>	Melissa Rivera	414-324-0835
<b>Teacher Appreciation Day Luncheon</b>	Kim Nistler	414-217-6711
<b>Teacher Appreciation Week/Staff Recognition</b>	Melissa Rivera	414-324-0835
<b>Teacher Dinner – Fall</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Parents	-----
<b>Teacher Dinner – Winter</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Parents	-----
<b>Teacher gifts</b>	Katie Sanders	608-358-3835
<b>Uniforms to Share Coordinator</b>	Jen Dodridge	414-873-2968

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### ROLE

- Supports the Principal in the everyday management of the school.
- Provides a vehicle for long-range planning and supervise the budget of the school.
- Ensures the mission of the parish and the mission of the school is alive and living within the walls of the school.

The Education Committee serves as a policymaking board but does not get involved in the day-to-day management of the school or staff.

Additionally, the Education Committee provides an arena for the Principal to present ideas, issues, and solutions and to gain feedback and suggestions from the committee.

### 2016-2017 SCHOOL COMMITTEE (formerly EDUCATION COMMITTEE)

Chair: Brent Nistler (416-9009)

Parish Council Representative: Steve Dodridge (350-8620)

Sha’Nese Burnell Jones (217-9163)

Melissa Karls Corr (243-0678)

Kevin Mullen (312-3275)

Anne Novotny (616-0258)

Jill Schmid (476-5143)

Cynthia Schoonover (262-352-9132)

Lisa Metz (414-640-5408)

Cheryl Warner

Maria Melendes (414-526-1947)

### LOAVES AND FISHES EVENTS & INITIATIVES

*In a private school there is always a need to generate additional funds. Home & School Association is committed to contributing a percentage of revenue to the parish budget, as well as funding many of the wonderful programs it sponsors. Hopefully, the fundraising activities that are sponsored by Home & School not only generate revenue, but also build community and foster fun times. Every family’s participation in the fundraising events is vital to achieving our monetary goal.*

**Magazines and More Sale:** This is one of the largest fundraisers that Home & School sponsors. Students will attend a kick-off assembly during the first week of school and will be given all the materials needed to participate. Prizes are awarded based on the student’s level of participation.



**Volunteers are needed to distribute award prizes.** Save your subscriptions!!

**Fish Fry:** The first Friday of every month from October through May and every Friday during Lent are Fish Fry Fridays - a good place to eat, as well as, to volunteer. Each class is assigned a fish fry to work and families are expected to assist with the set-up, serving, or clean-up for that month. They also provide baked goods for the dessert table. Students in the assigned class will bring home a volunteer form for that month which should be completed and returned promptly. If you want to join a fun group of “regulars” on Fish Fry Fridays, contact the Fish Fry Volunteer Coordinator.

**Book Fair:** Held two times each school year in the school library, during the fall school conference week and one week in the spring. Each book fair is an opportunity to foster reading with your children and serves as a major fundraiser for the school library. **Volunteers are needed to set-up, break down and work as cashiers during the sale. Two-hour shifts are available during the day or evening.**

**Spirit Wear:** As a service for our school families, a variety of sweatshirts and golf shirts are available for purchase. The golf shirts and sweatshirts can be worn as part of the school uniform. Order forms for the uniformed approved apparel are available in the school office and can be ordered anytime throughout the school year.

Once per year, usually before Christmas break, athletic spirit wear (which is not part of the school dress code) is available for purchase. There are a variety of items to choose from, such as hooded sweatshirts, knit caps, headbands, t-shirts and nylon bags.

**Country Springs Water Park Passes:** For a limited time, water park passes to Country Springs water park in Pewaukee, can be ordered at half price the regular admission price. Not only does this offer save families money, it also earns money for our school. Passes can be ordered (payment due at time of order) in early November and are delivered in time for Christmas! Passes are good for one year from the time of purchase and are not valid during specified block-out dates.

**Painless Fundraising:** The following programs offer money for our school and no additional cost to you. Many retailers and food producers will give cash to St. Sebastian just for buying your everyday items.

- **Lands' End Preferred School Contribution Program:** Lands' End donates 3% of your net sales of Lands' End School Uniform products back to St Sebastian School. You must mention or include your preferred school number (**9000-3003-2** (enter it without the hyphens)) when placing your order. You can reach Lands' End by phone (800-469-2222), fax (800-332-0103) or internet ([www.landsend.com/school](http://www.landsend.com/school)).

To make your shopping even easier, the Lands' End clothing that fits within our St. Sebastian Dress Code is listed. Simply click on “*Find Your School's Dress Code.*”

- **French Toast Dollars in Uniform Program:** French Toast offers the largest selection of school apparel in stock, year round and donates 5% of your net sales back to St Sebastian School. Use code (**QS458JD**) when ordering online ([www.frenchtoast.com](http://www.frenchtoast.com)) or by phone (800-frenchtoast).
- **Onecause.com:** Make internet purchases from your favorite on-line stores, including Amazon.com and eBay. Go to OneCause.com (formerly [schoolpop.com](http://schoolpop.com)) and designate St. Sebastian School as your recipient.
- **Goodsearch.com:** Works like Google, only we get cash for our kids while you're searching and shopping online.
- **Scrap Metal Drives through Action Metal:** Recycle *almost anything* made of metal. Take it to Cimco Recycling at 5329 W. State Street (phone 414-671-5777). Tell them you want the proceeds to benefit St. Sebastian.

Look for the date of the next Scrap Metal Drive, held in Spring on the St. Sebastian parking lot. Bring your scrap metal for recycling while benefitting St. Sebastian!  
**Volunteers are needed to sort, disassemble, and use their pick-up trucks to transport the metal for recycling.**

- **General Mills “Box Tops for Education:”** Send in box top coupons (The small pink rectangle stating: “BOX TOPS”) from many brands including General Mills, Pillsbury, Yoplait, Betty Crocker, Old El Paso, Progresso, Pop Secret, Green Giant, Totino’s and Gold Medal. Each box top coupon is worth 10¢, which may not sound like much, but think about how many of these products we buy. We can earn a sizable amount of money for our school!
- **Recycle Cell Phones:** Send in all brands of cell phones and batteries (accessories are not needed). Newer cell phones are worth the most!! It’s an environment-friendly good deed in addition to earning money for our school.
- **Recycle Ink Cartridges:** Send in many brands of inkjet cartridges (home computer) and toner cartridges (large printers, fax machines) that have not been remanufactured. Visit [fundingfactory.com](http://fundingfactory.com) for a list of eligible cartridges. Would your workplace be willing to donate their cartridges to our school? It’s an environment-friendly good deed as well as helpful to our school.

### **WHERE SHOULD YOU TAKE THIS STUFF?**

All items (except aluminum cans and other metal items) can be taken to:

- The school office—look for the labeled drawers/bins under teacher mailboxes,
- The gathering space outside the church—look for the blue drop-off box near the restrooms.

## FUN & FELLOWSHIP APPRECIATION ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

*We all need to hear “Thank you” and “You did a great job.” Sometimes it’s fun to show appreciation in other ways. We have so much to be grateful for here at St. Sebastian.*

**Teacher Appreciation Dinners:** A committee prepares themed dinners for the school staff during conferences (November and February). **Volunteers are needed to prepare a salad or dessert to contribute to the dinners or to coordinate the event. Note: The 1<sup>st</sup> grade parents are responsible for the November dinner and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade is responsible for the February dinner.**

**Teacher Appreciation Day Luncheon:** A committee prepares a beautiful luncheon with door prizes for the school staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. **Volunteers are needed to prepare a salad or dessert to contribute to the dinners or to coordinate the event.**

**Teacher Appreciation Week:** A committee coordinates various tokens of appreciation to our teachers and school staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. Also communicates teacher appreciate week to school families and encourages participation by all families. **Volunteers are needed to plan and coordinate activities.**

**Staff Birthday/Holiday Remembrances:** A small remembrance is given to staff to celebrate their birthdays. **A volunteer coordinates, purchases, and presents these remembrances.**

**Sunshine Club:** Provides cards and flowers to staff and families as needed.

**Auction Christmas cookies:** The Home & School Association provides 12 dozen Christmas cookies during the Advent season to the highest bidder at the parish auction, usually held in October. **Volunteers are needed to bake and deliver the cookies to the highest bidder.**

**Classroom Auction Baskets:** Theme baskets are created from items collected by the classrooms. These wonderful and highly sought-after baskets are then auctioned during the parish auction, usually held in October.

**Grandparents/VIP Day:** Invite your grandparents to spend a morning with you and show off your school. Watch school newsletters for more details. **Volunteers needed to serve on the planning committee and help with set-up.**

**Fizz and Fellowship:** Following the Halloween costume parade and before pickup time is Fizz and Fellowship, where Home & School provides soda and snacks to parents to provide an opportunity to socialize with other school families. Check the monthly school calendar for the date and location. **Volunteers are needed to assist with set-up, clean up and planning.**

## COMMUNICATION

**Grade Liaison:** A parent from each grade is needed to be the liaison between the families in their grade and Home & School. (*This role is not the same as the room parent who plans parties and field trips.*) By attending monthly Home & School meetings, the liaison will be kept apprised of all ongoing activities and communicate this information to each grade. Grade liaisons will assist in finding volunteers for other events by contacting parents in their grade. **Volunteers are needed to be a grade liaison at each grade level.**

**New Family Mentoring Program:** This program is designed to align new families with returning families. The purpose is to provide a smooth introduction of St. Sebastian School to the new family. Returning families call their new school family, welcome them, answer questions, and maybe even meet for a fish fry! **Volunteer families are needed to mentor new families.**

**Buzz Book:** The Buzz Book is a parish school resource and phone directory for St Sebastian School. For each family, it provides parents' names and children's names, classroom and grade. This book is published every fall and given to each family. Additional copies are available, for a fee, in the school office.

**Annual Open House:** Each year during Catholic Schools Week, St. Sebastian hosts an Open House. It is a great time to show off our wonderful school to family and friends and to prospective school families. Hosts and hostesses greet interested families and give them a tour. This day is a cooperative effort of the Education Committee, Home & School Association, and the school staff. **Volunteers are needed to be the host and hostesses for the day and to provide baked goods.**

## STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

**Honors Reception:** Each spring the Home & School Association honors the middle school students who have achieved honors and high honors. **The 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents are responsible for providing the reception for this event.**

**End-of-the-Year Event:** On the last days of school, an activity is planned for students of all ages. Volunteers plan the event as well as help out the day of the event. **Many volunteers will be needed to chaperone, so mark your calendar to spend a fun-filled day with your child(ren).**

## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### OUR FAITH:

*The philosophy of St. Sebastian School is to share in the responsibility of educating children through a Christ-centered focus on spiritual and academic development.*

- **Student Liturgies:** Every Wednesday morning, as well as on special Holy Days, our entire student body and school staff attend 8:15 am Mass. The staff and students take turns planning and participating in the liturgies. It is a wonderful experience to see and feel the energy of prayer and celebration from our students! Parents are welcome to participate and are invited to sit with their child(ren). **Volunteers are needed to assist teachers in Wednesday liturgy planning.**
- **Sacraments:** In December, our second grade students celebrate their First Reconciliation and in the spring, First Eucharist. The students prepare for the sacraments with family projects as well as group meetings and half-day retreats.
- **Religious Education Resource Room (Adult Formation Room):** Our religious education office is open to borrow Christian-based books, tapes, and videos. Stop in to see the vast variety of materials to share with your family.
- **St. Sebastian School Covenant:** Each year students pledge to live by the values of the covenant. Several school activities are planned each year to remind our students to live by the covenant.

### ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES:

**Readers are Leaders:** This is an ongoing program to help children develop a love of reading. We have different programs based on the grade.

- **Rosie Reader** is for K4 and K5 students. Students track their reading at home in 20 minute increments. When they reach a goal they earn a letter and the word READING. After each letter earned, students receive a small gift bag and recognition in the school newsletter.
- **ReadnQuiz** is for students in grades 1 through 5. Students read for pleasure books in their Lexile reading range (generated from MAP testing). Students take quizzes on their reading and earn points for successfully passing quizzes. Higher level books are worth more points. As students accumulate points, that are added to a Point Club.
- **Battle of the Books** is for students in grades 6 through 8. Students are broken down into battle teams and each team is challenged to read a number of books from a book list. While reading, students keep a journal of important facts and events, On battle day, teams compete against each other to answer questions about their reading. Points are earned and teams advance by earning the highest number of points. Battles continue until one team is left standing.

- **High Interest Day:** Each spring, High Interest Day is held at St. Sebastian School. It is a daylong event filled with many different and unique experiences for the students. Volunteers teach and facilitate cooking, sewing, crafts, science, conservation, woodworking, sports, and many other learning workshops. K4 and K5 students also participate in a half-day version of High Interest Day. Many volunteers are needed to continue to make this wonderful event a success. **Volunteers are needed to present classes, assist presenters, monitor classroom lunch periods, and to assist with the set up and clean up of the event.** Just ask your kids! This is considered the “best day of the school year” by the students.
- **Mileage Club:** Mileage Club is a year round lunch recess program for 2nd, 3rd, 4th grade and St. Coletta students. Students earn foot tokens and have their names read during announcements for every 5 mile accomplishment. **Volunteers insure our runners/walkers are safe and are well monitored as they make their way around the block and through the school playground.** The program is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00-1:00pm. Mileage Club is held one day only in the winter months and in the spring the 1st grade students are added to the mix. SafeGuarding God's Children training is necessary for volunteers to participate.
- **Forensics:** This rapidly growing middle school program gives students the opportunity to compete at local tournaments and earn a trip to the state competition. We are proud to say that our forensics team has won the State title twice! With wonderful volunteer leadership, it has developed into a great experience for our middle school students. **Volunteers are needed to coach students after school, to transport students to and from contests and to judge during competitions.**
- **Chess Club:** St. Sebastian is fortunate to have a Chess Club run by parent volunteers. Students meet once a week to practice and then go on to participate in local chess tournaments throughout the area. **Volunteers are needed to supervise practices and chaperone tournaments.**
- **Spelling Bee:** The fifth through eighth grade students can participate in the school spelling bee. A school champ is selected and sent to the district Spelling Bee.
- **Geography Bee:** The fifth through eighth grade students can participate in the school geography bee. A school champ is selected and sent to the Regional Geography Bee.
- **Instrumental Music Lessons:** Available through All Saints Music Education. Instruction teaches both band and orchestra for an additional fee. Students are provided a variety of experiences to perform as a group in the school’s concerts. Watch the school newsletter for more information.
- **Field Trips:** Each class participates in field trips related to their area of studies. These trips have included visits to the Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park, Milwaukee Public Museum, the zoo, the art museum, our State Capitol in Madison, Old World Wisconsin and performances at several theaters, just to name a few. **Volunteers are**

**needed to chaperone and will be requested as needed by your child's teacher.**

- **Performing Arts Concerts:** Students in 4th through 6th grade attend several concerts at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts each year.
- **Middle School Class Trips:** Our middle school classes are fortunate to take some very exciting and educational class trips.
  - 6th Grade:** Outdoor education and overnight at Camp Edwards in East Troy.
  - 7th Grade:** A day in downtown Chicago for a play and educational site seeing.
  - 8th Grade:** A bus trip to Washington, D.C. to see historical monuments and history in the making.
- **Youth Athletics (YAC):** St. Sebastian has a wonderful youth athletics program that offers competitive volleyball and basketball for both girls and boys in grades 5 through 8. **Volunteers are needed for the snack stand during games.**
- **Scouting:** Many students from St. Sebastian and the neighboring community participate in St. Sebastian's extensive Scouting program. We have Troops of Girl Scouts starting at the Daisy level in K5 and continuing through with seniors at the high school level. The Cub Scout program is geared for 1st through 5th grade boys while the Boy Scout program is available for 6th grade through high school boys. All students are welcome to join a Scouting program. **Volunteers are needed to become Girl Scout and Cub/Boy Scout leaders. Training is offered through the Girl Scout and Boy Scout offices. Parents can also volunteer to help with existing troop events.**
- **School Play:** Every fall, our budding actors and actresses of St. Sebastian produce and perform a school play. This is open to parish children as well. **Volunteers are needed for stage set up and design, costumes and make-up. Volunteers are needed to work the admission table and flower and snack stand during performances.**
- **School Concerts:** All school concerts are held at different times during the year. Watch your newsletter for details.
- **Children's Choir:** Students in grades 2 through 5 are welcome to join the children's choir under the direction of Mike Kaminski. The choir practices once per week and sing at select all school Masses. They can also participate in 4:00 Mass on Christmas Eve. Children in grades 5 through 8 are invited to audition in September to become a "cantor" for all-school Masses. Students are placed in groups of 3 cantors to sing at any school Mass.
- **Middle School Choir:** We also have a middle school choir for students in grades 6 through 8. Rehearsals are during middle school resource time. They perform at school concerts and have been invited to sing the National Anthem at sporting events.
- **Summer Academy:** St. Sebastian offers two 4-week summer sessions for children entering grades 2 through 8. One session focuses on remedial learning while the other

includes enrichment in many areas.

### **LIFE SKILLS:**

- **Student Council:** St. Sebastian students have a very active student council that plans many events and help to develop policies at our school. Students running for office (President, Vice President and Secretary) give a campaign speech. Representatives from grades 5 through 8 serve on the council.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

- **Weekly Newsletter:** Each Wednesday, the school publishes a weekly newsletter and posts it on the school website. Email alerts are sent to each family with a link to the latest newsletter. It contains information on just about everything that's happening at school. You will find it invaluable. *If you wish to submit a notice for the newsletter it must be in the school office by noon on Monday.* If you don't have Internet access and need to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please alert the school office.
- **Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences:** These occur in November and February and provide an opportunity for you to discuss your child(ren)'s progress. Students in grades 3 through 8 are expected to attend the conference with their parents.

### **REACHING OUT TO OTHERS:**

*As a parish school we recognize the importance of community. Part of our school mission states we are committed to encouraging participation in Gospel-centered living and instilling a Christian responsibility to serve others.*

- **Uniforms to Share:** There is a box in the school full of St. Sebastian School uniforms that families have outgrown or no longer use. All uniforms are FREE! Stop in and pick up uniforms you can use or contribute ones that are no longer needed in your family.
- **Mission Outreach Activity:** Each spring our teachers organize a special event called Mission Outreach Activity. Students participate in activities to raise money for a chosen mission. This is a time for students to reach out to the community to support missions close to home and far away.
- **Food Drives:** Throughout the year Student Council organizes food drives for needy families. Students are invited to bring non-perishable food for a local food pantry. Watch the newsletter for specific dates.
- **Stewardship Hours:** Middle school students participate in stewardship hours where they donate their time to help at school and parish functions, a neighbor, or at a local food



pantry or shelter. This program is linked to their Religion class. Children should bring home more information during the year.

### **SCHOOL DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

- **Library Volunteers:** We are very proud of our school library. It provides wonderful books and resources for our students, including Internet access. **Volunteers are needed to supplement the part-time librarian, by working a three-hour shift during school hours. There is also a need for volunteers to repair books.** Information on how to repair books is available and this job can be done at home.
- **Health Room Volunteers:** Can you take a temperature, apply a band-aid or ice pack, and give a little tender loving care? If the answer is yes then you are qualified to be a health room volunteer. American Red Cross Health Room training will be provided. **Volunteer time is during the lunch period (11:00 – 1:00). It's hard to predict the level of need on a daily basis. You may bring younger children or another activity to do.**
- **Playground and Cafeteria Volunteers:** We have paid supervisors for both the cafeteria and playground, **but volunteers are needed to assist in both areas.** During inclement weather, recess is held indoors. Once or twice a month would be greatly appreciated. Come and share lunch with your child(ren).