

St. Matthew Catholic School, San Antonio, Texas
2017-2018 Student- Parent Handbook

ST. MATTHEW STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Students in the Middle School may be eligible for membership in The St. Matthew the Evangelist Chapter of The National Junior Honor Society. The four criteria that must be present for admission into the National Junior Honor Society are: scholarship, leadership, citizenship and service. Students may be eligible for induction at the end of their 6th grade year, 7th grade year or 8th grade year.

Scholarship is determined by the student's average of 94% overall for the school year. This is calculated at the end of third quarter. A nominated student initially meets the scholarship requirement and is then invited to fill out a written application showing evidence of his/her experiences in leadership and service activities. Citizenship is based on a review of the student's activities and behaviors in the school community, their church community and their family, neighborhood, state or national communities.

Students will be selected for induction by a Faculty council. Once inducted into the National Junior Honor Society, a student must maintain the academic and personal behavior standards as outlined in their signed covenant or risk probation and/or dismissed from the NJHS.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council is a school leadership organization of student representatives elected from kindergarten through eighth grade. One representative is chosen for each class in kindergarten through fourth grade. Two representatives are chosen from each class from fifth through seventh grades and three representatives are chosen to represent each eighth grade class. Students in grades K – 5 may not serve consecutive terms. The Student Council Pledge embodies the essence of the Student Council Representative:

"I promise to represent St. Matthew Catholic School and students to the best of my ability. I will set a positive example of Christian student leadership for all students to follow."

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Current before and after school clubs/ extra-curricular activities:

- Chess Club
- Dance Team
- Fine Arts Club
- Guitar
- Mini-Spirit Squad
- Robotics Club
- Rosary Prayer Group
- Safety Patrols
- Spirit Squad
- STEM Club
- Theater Arts Club
- Twirling

All extra-curricular and school sponsored clubs are an extension of St. Matthew Catholic School. The students who participate in these clubs and activities represent the mission of St. Matthew Catholic School and must abide by the policies in the St. Matthew Catholic School Student-Parent Handbook.

For Cheerleading and Sports Teams, please see the Sports Handbook Folder of the St. Matthew Catholic School Parent-Student Handbook.

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CURRENT STUDENT CLUBS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

CHESS CLUB

Students learn fundamentals and advanced techniques in chess. Students learn to explore strategies, to plan ahead and to learn from mistakes. They also learn the value of good sportsmanship. There is a fee associated with the Chess Club.

DANCE TEAM

St. Matthew Cardinalettes Dance Team IS FOR GIRLS FROM 5TH TO 8TH GRADE. The purpose is to build poise, confidence, leadership, and school sprit through the expression of dance. There are fees associated with the Dance Team.

FINE ARTS CLUB

This club is available for students from fourth grade through eighth grade. Students will learn about a famous artist or important cultural tradition and create their own masterpieces inspired by these works of art. Classical music will accompany the artists as they work. There is a fee for the Fine Arts Club.

GUITAR

Students in the guitar club will learn basic chords along with strumming patterns, easy guitar riffs, and both secular and sacred music.

MINI- SPIRIT SQUAD

This is a spirit organization opened to girls in the Kindergarten and First Grade. The girls participate in various school spirit-related activities throughout the year. There are fees associated with the mini- spirit squad.

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PRIVATE SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ASSOCIATION (PSIA)

St. Matthew participates in the Private School Interscholastic Association (PSIA). PSIA is an education organization offering academic contests for students in Private Schools throughout Texas.

ROBOTICS CLUB

This club provides structure, instruction and materials that allow members to learn about using software and mechanical principles to solve problems in a competitive environment. There are fees associated with membership/participation in the Robotics club.

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

This group meets once a week to honor Mary and pray the Rosary.

SAFETY PATROL

Safety Patrol members will consist of sixth through eighth grade students. Serving is an honor and each student must be capable and responsible. Safety Patrols are expected to maintain their grades and conduct while they serve. Safety Patrols must always demonstrate a positive attitude and their behavior must set the proper example for other students. Patrols assist in the safe movement of students to and from the school building for Mass, prayer services and assemblies.

SPIRIT SQUAD

Girls in grades 2-5 can participate in this Spirit Organization. The girls participate in various school spirit-related activities throughout the year. There are fees associated with the Spirit Squad.

STEM CLUB – to enhance students’ interest, skills and expertise in STEM-related subjects. Students will have opportunities to participate in competitions at STEM-related local, regional, state and national venues. There are fees associated with membership/participation in the STEM club.

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THEATER ARTS CLUB – St. Matthew’s Musical Theater Program in Collaboration with the Woodlawn Theater. Open to students from 2nd grade through 8th grade. Students meet once a week after-school. Classes culminate in a main state performance at the Woodlawn Theater. There is a fee for the Theater Arts Club.

TWIRLING – Twirling is opened to girls of all ages. Twirlers perform at school related activities, civic events, and contests. There is a fee for Twirling.