

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School
New Family Survival Guide
2018-19
FAQ

We want the best start possible for our new Cardinals! This document is intended to answer some of the more immediate “day to day” questions that may arise during your first week as an SRL Catholic School parent. Our goal is to make your transition as smooth as possible! Our *New Family Survival Guide* was drafted to complement the more detailed Student & Parent Handbook, which will be available to you during *Meet Your Teacher* scheduled on Friday, August, 17th.

Do I need to buy school supplies for my child?

Each grade level has a list of necessary school supplies, which is included online in our Summer Packet. Parents may purchase the supplies through *ClassBundl* <https://classbundl.com/> as a package or you may purchase your supplies on your own. All supplies are needed on the first day of school.

How do I purchase the school uniform?

Uniforms are worn by all PreK3- Grade 8 students. Continental Uniforms is SRL’s exclusive uniform provider. Shoes and sneakers may be purchased at any shoe store.

Other Uniform Tips:

- Order your uniforms as soon as possible. Consider that they might need alterations, or might be on backorder. The sooner you order them the better.
- The classrooms are kept at cool temperatures; consider purchasing a sweater and/or fleece jacket even before the winter season.
- Also, it is a good idea to pack a small umbrella and a plastic poncho (disposable ones from the Dollar Store work great!)
- The SRL Spirit Shop sells “gently used” uniforms you may need for approximately \$5.
- LABEL all uniforms, jackets and sweaters with your child’s name

Uniform Resale

Used uniforms are available for sale through the Home & School Association (HSA). Our first used uniform sale is scheduled during Meet Your Teacher. Sales are scheduled periodically throughout the school year. Stay tuned for upcoming dates/times.

What does the school uniform consist of?

Please refer to uniform flyer to assure that you are purchasing the correct uniform clothing. Uniform guidelines are also available in our Student & Parent Handbook (provided during the first week of school).

Is there a different PE Uniform?

Yes. All students come to school wearing their PE uniform on their scheduled PE day. This uniform consists of the approved SRL PE uniform shorts, t-shirt, and all white sneakers.

When do we get to meet our child's teacher?

There are two important events before the first day of school. One is our *Meet Your Teacher* activity.

New Family Orientation:

The New Family Orientation will take place Friday, August 17th, 8:30 AM in the school's Media Center. This session will be conducted by our school principal, Dr. Stephen Brown, and other school representatives. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other new families and for the new students to get acquainted with their new schoolmates.

Meet Your Teacher Day:

The first opportunity you and your family will have to meet the teachers is also on Friday, August 17th, following the New Family Orientation. You are welcome to stop by at any time between 10:00am and 12pm.

Classroom lists are going to be posted on each classroom door indicating which homeroom your child has been assigned.

This is an informal meeting with your child's new teacher. There will not be a formal presentation. It is the perfect day to bring your school supplies.

What time does school start? What time does it end?

Students must be in their classrooms by 8am. All students who are not in their classroom at the time of our school bell are sent to the cafeteria for a tardy pass. Our dismissal times are staggered and in the process of being reviewed for changes. Stay tuned for further information.

What do I need to know about carline?

All cars should have the *SafeDismissal* card displayed prominently in the windshield. Carline passes will be provided by your child's homeroom teacher during our *Meet Your Teacher* event. Carline is a single lane. Teachers and administrators are always present to help facilitate the flow of traffic, please respect and follow their directions.

Parents are asked to pay close attention during the carpool process. Cell phones are not to be used in carline and dogs are strongly discouraged. Please follow the traffic directions given by the teachers on duty. The Main Office should be advised in writing if a child is to go home in a different car pool or by a different means on a given day.

The time at which cars begin to line up for afternoon pick-up will vary. Since we have a staggered dismissal, please arrive according to your oldest child's dismissal time. If you are

picking up during second dismissal, we ask that you arrive only five minutes prior. Cars that arrive earlier block the flow of traffic and will be asked to go to a designated holding area.

Parents will not be permitted to park in the school parking lot unless you have an appointment with a teacher or if you have business to conduct in the Main Office. Students who walk home must have a Release from Liability Waiver completed and on file in the school office.

What is the procedure during rainy dismissals?

In South Florida, it's common to experience rainy days with sudden downpours and thunderstorms, especially in August and September! If it's raining at the time of dismissal parents are required to park and pick their children up from the classrooms. The school gate will open at 2:45pm on rainy day dismissals.

My child is just entering Preschool or Kindergarten, can I walk them to the classroom door in the morning?

All Preschool and Kindergarten parents are welcome to walk their children to the classroom door during the first week of school. After the first week, parents must drop off their children in carline. If you are walking your child to class or to the gate, you are asked to park near the school office or around the perimeter of the school to prevent disruption to our carline. We do not allow parents to walk their children to the classroom doors throughout the year because it makes our school safety more vulnerable and causes disturbance to the teacher's morning supervision routine.

What do most children do for lunch? Is there lunch provided by the school?

Students may bring a bagged lunch to school. Catered lunches may be purchased daily from the Cardinal Café. The school utilizes a cashless accounting system for lunch purchases and it's the parent's obligation to ensure their child has sufficient money on the account to purchase lunch. Please note that no child will ever be denied a lunch if forgotten but this system may not be abused and students will only be able to purchase a simple sandwich and water until their card has a positive balance.

Each month, the school will publish a tentative lunch schedule that will be included in the Friday Folder. Please be aware that these lunches are subject to change but regular food items are always available daily.

How will I know about what is happening at school?

Every Friday, each child will bring a folder home, a.k.a. Weekly Folder, with his/her schoolwork from the past week, along with any other forms from the school. A weekly email blast with important school news will also be sent home on Fridays. The school has also established a facebook account to access up-to-date (instantaneous) information regarding our sports teams, school accomplishments, classroom progress, etc.

Our most valuable source for classroom information will be the Plus Portal. You will be given Plus Portal account codes after the start of the new school year. In the meantime, you can still

access much of the information available by visiting our school's website www.srlschool.com. Finally, we hope that you will attend the meetings of our Home and School Association (HSA).

A monthly school calendar will be published for more detailed event dates/times. Please be aware that the annual calendar is tentative and subject to change.

If I have a concern or question related to the classroom what should I do?

If you have any questions or concerns related to the classroom, you are asked to contact your child's teacher directly. The school understandably follows a "teacher first" policy so all concerns must be directly communicated to the teacher before seeing the school administration.

How do I get involved as a volunteer at school?

St. Rose of Lima School parents are expected to support fundraising efforts and get involved with parish and school activities. Through the **Parish Participation Program** each family is expected to contribute a minimum of twenty-five (25) hours of volunteer service annually. Our parish, including church and school, provides a number of ways for parents to fulfill this service requirement. **School families are required to work a minimum of one shift at Carnival time.**

It is the responsibility of each parent to complete their volunteer requirement. Parents will not be reminded or notified throughout the year to fulfill this obligation. All families are asked to complete their hours by the end of each May; volunteer opportunities will not be available in June.

Parents (or any other adult) who wish to volunteer at the school must undergo a background check through the Archdiocese of Miami. Parents will be responsible for submitting fingerprints, a certificate of completion of VIRTUS training, and a Volunteer Code of Conduct Form to the school office. This will be valid for a period of 5 years. The administration reserves the right to prevent a parent from volunteering at the school.

VIRTUS Training is approximately a three hour seminar about keeping the children safe. Follow the steps below to register for your VIRTUS training. Each parent receives credit hours for the seminar. Grandparents, nannies, and any other family member who desires to participate in our classroom activities will need to comply with all above policies.

1. Visit www.virtusonline.org
2. Click on "Registration"
3. Click on "Begin registration Process"
4. Select "Miami, Florida"
5. Create an account
6. Register for the session

I still have more questions about SRLwhat should I do?

During your New Family Orientation and our Back-to-School Night, you will have the opportunity to speak with our administration, faculty, and staff. In addition, the school office, your room parents and teachers, and the board members of the HSA are all available to answer your questions. Please do not hesitate to call on these resources throughout the year—we are all here to help!

Welcome to the SRL Catholic School community!