



WARRIOR WAY LEADERSHIP

STUDENT SERVICE OPPORTUNITES

St. Matthew offers a wide variety of service opportunities for students from Preschool through 8th grade. A few examples of our school-wide service projects include:

CANDY DRIVE FOR SOLDIERS

Annually, our fifth graders collect candy from all our students for our soldiers overseas.



PENNY WARS FOR HAITI

Students are encouraged to bring in spare change to see which class can collect the most for our sister parish in Haiti. This event happens annually.





EASTER FOOD BASKET/CANNED FOOD DRIVE

During the Lenten season, students collect canned goods and monetary donations to create Easter Baskets of food for those in need.



CLOTHING DRIVE FOR THE NEEDY

Before the start of the winter season, St. Matthew School students learn the Corporal Work of Mercy, "to clothe the naked," by having an annual clothing drive for winter coats, scarves, hats, gloves, boots, and socks for those in need.





FUND-A-FRIEND DAYS

Throughout the school year, causes are chosen that are near and dear to our Warrior hearts. Students can participate in a non-uniform day in exchange for a small donation. All money collected is given to that charity.



ASCENSION ST. VINCENT HOUSE COLLECTION

During Catholic Schools Week, each grade level donates supplies for families staying at the Ascension St. Vincent House.





3RD GRADE FIELD TRIP TO ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY

Each year, the third grade goes on a field trip to the SVDP food pantry. The students volunteer in a variety of ways from sorting produce to assisting shoppers at the pantry.



JOSEPH MALEY DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK

Our students participate in presentations that help build a better understanding of those with disabilities. During these presentations, student audiences are encouraged to ask questions in an effort to develop empathy and respect for those with disabilities.





STUDENT COUNCIL



St. Matthew Student Council is composed of 12 middle school students that are elected by their classmates. Students prepare speeches about their leadership skills and new ideas for the St. Matthew Community. All year long, Student Council is preparing and leading the following activities for the SMS Community:

Homecoming Week
Grandparents' Day
Monthly lobby slideshows
Decorating the school for Christmas
Planning Christmas activities
DisAbility Awareness Week
Valentine's Day Grams
Talent Show



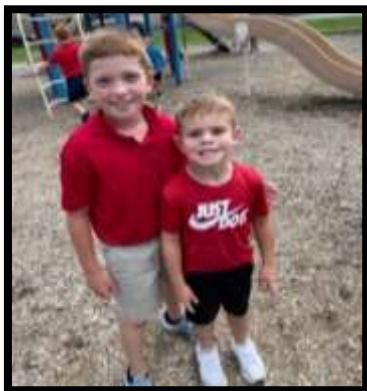


BUDDIES

St. Matthew School is a community that leads by example. All older students are challenged to set a positive example for the younger Warriors through their actions.

3RD GRADE | PRE-K

Third-grade students are paired up with a pre-K student to help show our newest students the Warrior Way. They form a very special bond through their Friday activities. A few favorite activities are making cards for the soldiers, creating Stations of the Cross books, and practicing the alphabet with chalk and bubbles.



6TH GRADE | KINDERGARTEN

Sixth grade students are paired up with an incoming Kindergarten student. This special relationship teaches the 6th graders to lead by example through kindness and compassion. The 6th graders sit with their buddies each week at our All-School Masses to help our Mini Warriors in their spiritual journey.





LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CLASSROOM AND CHURCH

LEADING ALL SCHOOL MASSES

On Wednesdays of each week, we meet as a school community for Mass. Every Mass is led by a classroom, giving students the chance to be leaders of faith. They can read the 1st reading and petitions, along with bringing up the gifts.



SERVING AND LEADING IN SONG AT MASS

Students can be leaders of faith by participating in All School Masses and weekend Masses as altar servers, greeters, cantors, or members of the choir.





4TH GRADE ALL SAINTS' DAY PRESENTATION

Each year on All Saints' Day, our 4th grade students prepare a presentation to teach the rest of the school about various saints. Each child chooses a saint they have a connection with, researches that saint's contributions to the Catholic faith, and then each student dresses up as the saint during our All Saints' Day Mass.



CLASSROOM JOBS

Classroom jobs allow for students to share their different talents. Many classrooms rotate jobs weekly, so each student gets a chance to try out different leadership positions. Some examples of classroom jobs are line leader, administrative assistant, technology assistant, absent work collector, and library helper.





NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY



7th grade students with a GPA of 3.4 or higher are eligible to apply for the National Junior Honor Society. They are responsible for completing service hours, continued involvement in their school, and maintaining a high GPA. They are honored in front of the school to set an example of excellence for our younger Warriors.

PUPPET TROUPE THROUGH THE JOSEPH MALEY FOUNDATION

8th grade students volunteer to be part of the Joseph Maley Foundation Puppeteer Group. They travel to different schools around Indianapolis to teach children about acceptance and compassion for people with disabilities. They also present the puppet show to our own SMS Warriors.





KEEP THE QUOTE

An inspirational quote about leadership and kindness is shared with the 6th grade students on Monday in their respective homerooms. As a reminder of their goal for the week, a poster with the quote is displayed in the classroom. This fun, weekly, goal-setting system ends on Friday, when they review their success following the quote and one student is chosen who truly embodied the meaning of the quote that week.



CAFÉ HELPERS

A favorite leadership opportunity for students in grades 3 through 8 is helping in the Café. They collect food for our compost to take out to the nature lab, help clean tables, stack chairs, and collect lunch count sheets for our hard-working cafeteria staff.





OUTSTANDING WARRIOR AWARD

The Outstanding Warrior Award is a long-standing tradition at St. Matthew School.

This award is given to one student per grade, each quarter that truly embodies the Warrior Way.

These students are selected by their teachers for demonstrating the characteristics of kindness, leadership, and Christian behavior.

These students are recognized in front of the whole school during Mass and they receive a certificate for their dedication to the Warrior Way. Also, their picture is placed on the OWA Bulletin Board in the front lobby for all to see. We display a list of the OWA recipients from previous years so students can see the many, amazing leaders SMS has had throughout the years.



HIGHLIGHTING KINDNESS AND GREAT LEADERS

HIGH FIVES

We are always on the lookout for kindness and acts of love in our St. Matthew Community. Teachers reward students that go above and beyond with a "high five." Students take home one copy to show their family and a second copy is placed in a bin. During our All School Masses, Mr. Smock pulls three "high fives" from the week and announces how each student displayed kindness and acts of love. This gives the student a chance to be recognized in front of the entire community!





KINDNESS POLICE

Mrs. Jennings and Mrs. Dinnwiddie bring some extra fun to SMS as the kindness police. They are on the lookout all week for students showing kindness and compassion to their classmates. Each Friday they announce the students that have been "pulled over by the kindness police" and reward them with a non-uniform pass. They conclude the Friday afternoon announcements with the phrase "Remember, no good deed goes unnoticed!"



GATORADES FOR GOOD & WALKING THE PATH OF CHRIST

For students in grades 1 through 3, who are caught modeling and walking the path of Christ, they will earn a foot key chain to display on their backpacks for all to see. When students in grades 4 through 8 are noticed being respectful, kind, or a positive leader, they can earn a Gatorade in Physical Education.



LEADERSHIP SHIRT CEREMONY

Each year, our 8th grade students receive a blessing and leadership shirt at the beginning of the school year. This ceremony and shirt signify the leadership and positive example the 8th graders will display throughout the year as servant leaders. One of their first acts of leadership is giving our Kindergarteners a Warrior Welcome and a St. Matthew medal during Mass.





LOVE FOR OUR 8TH GRADERS

We know the 8th grade students work hard to be a positive example for all younger Warriors, so we want to show them some extra love. We have created a “We LOVE our 8th Graders Wall” to display posters for individual students. These posters are made for all extra-curricular activities and are presented to the students at the end of their season.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT BULLETIN BOARD

Students are still part of our community, even after graduation from 8th grade! A bulletin board in the front lobby highlights the amazing things our SMS alumnae have accomplished. We want to show our students the importance of continuing the Warrior Way Leadership!





RETREATS AND GROWING IN OUR FAITH

St. Matthew is rooted in faith and strives to help all students grow in their faith each year. There are various retreats and all school sacraments such as penance services during Advent and Lent, Christmas prayer service and Eucharistic Adoration.



SECOND GRADE

**First Reconciliation
Retreat and Sacrament
Preparation**



SECOND GRADE

**First Holy Communion
Retreat and Sacrament
Preparation**



MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Retreat:
“Growing in All Aspects
of Life”**



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

Middle School Literature Teacher, Alex Nahmias, begins each class period with a SEL moment of the day. Students begin by having a 90 second lesson followed by three daily reminders. At the end of each lesson, students are reminded that if they felt their skills could be improved upon from past experiences, "...it's okay because we are allowed to make mistakes. We are going to learn from them and grow."

After the SEL lesson is reviewed, Students take a deep breath in and out to let those mistakes go. Students then say together our SEL reminder that, "Today is a new day with a new opportunity to make your world a better place to be."

SACRISTANS

8th grade students show great leadership each week at our All School Mass by serving as Sacristans. They help Fr. Bill prepare the altar before Mass, usher rows to communion, and prepare the church for the next service.

