
PARENT WELCOME PACKET 2025-2026

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HELLO & WELCOME!

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year at St. Paul's Lutheran School! We are so thankful that your family is part of our Christ-centered school community. Whether this is your first year with us or your tenth, we begin this year together in faith, excitement, and anticipation of all that God will do in the lives of our students.

Our 2025–2026 school theme, “Lead Me to Christ, the Rock,” is drawn from Psalm 61:2 — “When my heart is faint, lead me to the rock that is higher than I.” This verse reminds us that Christ is our solid foundation in every season of life. As we learn, grow, and face challenges together, we place our trust in Him —the unshakable Rock who strengthens, guides, and loves us unconditionally.

At St. Paul's, we are committed to nurturing each child academically, socially, and most importantly, spiritually. With Christ at the center of all we do, our teachers and staff walk alongside your child in faith, helping them develop a strong foundation built on God's Word and grace.

As we begin this new school year, we invite you to stay actively involved in the life of our school through communication, worship, fellowship, and service. Please plan to attend our Back-to-School Night on Monday, August 18, and watch for updates through our newsletters and Gradelink platform.

We are honored to partner with you in your child's education and faith journey. Thank you for trusting us with this important role. May this year be filled with learning, laughter, friendships, and a growing love for Jesus—our Rock and Redeemer.

Anchored in Christ,

Jill M. George



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

Parent Resources

Resources for checking grades online, staying in touch with our school and the PTO, and starting the year on the right foot.

02

Reminders and Handbook Updates

Start-of-year reminders and updates to policies found in the Parent Handbook.

03

Frequently Asked Questions

Find answers to some of the most commonly asked questions-- covering topics such as hot lunch, Extended Care,

04

Lower/Upper Grades Essential Info

Learn more about what to expect as your child progresses through the elementary or middle school programs.



PARENT RESOURCES



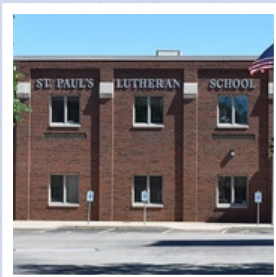
Gradelink:

Gradelink is our online student information system. You can log in here to view your child's grades, incident reports, and lunch account balance. This is also where teachers communicate with families, and send out their class newsletters. Beginning in the 25-26 school year, lunch payments are also made through Gradelink. Login at <https://secure.gradelink.com/>



Warrior Review:

Every week during the school year, the main office sends out the Warrior Review-- our school's primary newsletter. Information about everything from athletics, to re-enrollment, upcoming events, and important school notices are shared here, along with exclusive looks inside the classroom and our students' achievements. Links to the academic calendar, lunch menu, and spirit wear store are also always posted here.



PTO Facebook Page:

The St. Paul's PTO Facebook page serves as another important way to stay up to date on school news and information. Parents and school staff regularly post everything from event reminders, to snapshots from the classroom.

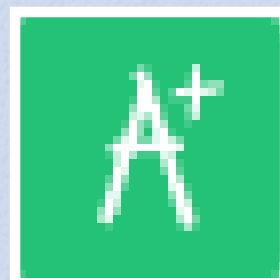
Check it out here:

www.facebook.com/groups/StPaulsLutheranOconomowocPTL



Move-In Night

Held the Monday evening before school starts (this year, 8/18 at 5:30pm), Move-In Night gives families a chance to connect before the school year, meet their child's teacher, and pick up required books for the year. Order forms for required books are sent out a few weeks before Move-In Night, and payment is collected via TADS so orders are fully ready on Move-In Night.



TADS

TADS is our primary billing site. This is where enrollment and re-enrollment is handled, as well as where tuition, extra fees, Extended Care, and Move-In Night orders are billed. Although invoices are billed here, it is also possible to pay these invoices in the office with cash or check, as long as that is done before the automatic withdrawal date.

REMINDERS AND UPDATES

01

Soda and caffeinated drinks are no longer allowed at school. Sweatpants, leggings, and joggers are not acceptable to wear at school.



02

Remember to send immunization records to the school office as soon as possible at the start of the year.

03

Walking permission slips are required for students to be allowed to walk home after school. Turn these in to the main office as soon as possible.



04

Phones, smartwatches, and similar electronic devices are not used in school. They are collected and kept in safe, locked boxes and returned to students at the end of the day. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please contact the main office.

FAQS

01

How do I log on to Gradelink?

You will receive your login credentials on paper from your child's teacher during home visits, and an email copy will be sent to you before the school year starts, and periodically throughout the year.

02

How does the hot lunch program work?

Hot lunch operates on a prepay system. You can check the balance and add funds to your child's account through Gradelink. Accounts that owe \$30 or more will be billed monthly through TADS. We are also part of the National Free and Reduced Lunch program. You can pick up an application in the office if you'd like to apply.

03

Where can I find the school calendar and events?

Links to the school calendar and a monthly event calendar is always available in the Warrior Review. We do also have a Google Calendar on our website that you can add to your phone or email.

04

Where can I find info on school rules?

The Parent Handbook, which all parents receive a copy of, contains in depth school rules and practices on everything from dress code to discipline reports. If you have specific questions about a school rule or policy, reach out to Ms Kate Crnkovich or your child's teacher.

05

What is Extended Care?

Extended Care is our after-school child care program. If a child isn't picked up by 3pm, they automatically go to Extended Care until they are picked up, no later than 5:30pm. In Extended Care, kids get an after school snack and time to play. Extended Care services are \$5/hour per child, and it is billed monthly through TADS.

06

What is the difference between TADS and Gradelink?

Gradelink is our student information system-- it holds things like grades, lunch account balances, and school-parent communication. Hot lunch is also paid through this site. TADS holds all other billing info and invoices. TADS is where you apply and enroll for school every year.

07

Where can I find school supply lists?

School supply lists for all grades are posted on teacherlists.com. You can search for our school, or use the direct link below. Some supplies may be provided by the school-- these will be picked up at Move-in Night and charged to TADS. <https://app.teacherlists.com/schools/86668-st-paul-lutheran-school>

08

Who should I contact with further questions?

Always reach out to our school secretary, Ms Kate Crnkovich, first. She handles the bulk of the school's administrative work and can quickly get you the info you need, or put you in touch directly with the person who can.





LOWER GRADES

4K-4TH

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Lower Grades FAQs

What makes St Paul's curriculum special?

The lower grade years are filled with new experiences and growth as our students begin to discover who God has created them to be, and the many gifts and talents He has blessed them with.

Students learn of Jesus and His love for them as they participate in daily bible readings, classroom devotions, religion classes, and weekly chapel services. In chapel our lower grade students are paired with upper grade students to foster relationships.

We provide challenging and inquiry based learning experiences. Most recently we have adopted Bridges Math curriculum which encourages critical thinking, and allows our students to share unique strategies and thinking in a supportive and joyful environment.

Our lower grade children are also offered distinctive opportunities to enhance their educational experience including STEM, C-Team volleyball and basketball, choir, multi-age learning opportunities, and a spring musical.

At the heart of all we do is Jesus and His great love for us all!

At St Paul's we believe in educating and fostering growth in all aspect of our students. We teach phonics and cursive as part of our curriculum, use the highly ranked Bridges math program, and offer music opportunities for all grades: K-4 have two music classes per week and choir, 3-4 learn to play the recorder, and 4th grade has optional guitar classes. All grades have physical education classes, as well as 2 recesses per day.

We also follow the Friendly curriculum for faith-based social and emotional growth. Check the Warrior Review for our monthly themes and at-home activities!

Is there before and after school care?

Yes! Morning care begins at 7am and is free. Afternoon care is from end of day until 5pm and there is an hourly fee per child. There is no need to register in advance.

How is hot lunch billed? How does my child sign up?

Teacher's check daily to see if a child is hot lunch or cold that day. Lunch is \$4.25/day. Families can also apply for free/reduced cost lunch. Lunch accounts are billed monthly through TADS, if the account owes more than \$30. Parents can also pre-pay their child's account with cash or check in the office.

-Mrs. Sara Benes, Head of Lower Grades





UPPER GRADES

5TH-8TH

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Upper Grades FAQs

What makes St Paul's curriculum special?

We offer a wide variety of electives, including astronomy, world religions, culinary arts, and more. Students also take STEM, robotics, coding, and typing as part of their class rotation.

We also feature a robust music program, including choir, band, and guitar. We offer the option for kids to take one-on-one piano lessons during the day as well. Most electives are chosen at the end of the year, for the coming year. New families receive elective enrollment information during home visits. Piano lessons are conducted by Carrie Arndorfer, reach out to the office if you are interested.

Our school also follows Friendly's curriculum for faith based social and emotional growth. Check the Warrior Review for monthly themes and home activities!

What is Camp Luther and the South Dakota trip?

Camp Luther and the South Dakota trips are outdoor education trips that the middle school students take each year. Grades 5-7 spend a week in the spring at Camp Luther on team building activities, service work, and growing in their faith.

8th Grade students go on a trip to South Dakota every fall. This trip offers our students a valuable opportunity to develop their faith, challenge themselves, and bond as a class.

Cost for these trips varies by year, and is billed through TADS. Students may participate in fundraising for South Dakota through their 7th grade year.

The upper grade years are a meaningful time for students to build lasting relationships, grow as leaders, discover their unique talents, and strengthen their relationship with Jesus.

Upper grade students build connections across all grade levels through activities like STEM buddies, reading buddies, and chapel buddies. These interactions help them develop and strengthen their leadership skills. Students are also given opportunities to help their community through the Lord's Cupboard.

Each day, our students engage with God's Word, attend weekly chapel services, and, in grades 7 and 8, attend confirmation classes led by our pastors.

Our students have access to a wide range of sports, music, and extracurricular activities that nurture and develop the gifts and talents God has given them.

Throughout their time in the upper grades we want to equip students to grow academically while preparing them to use their God-given abilities to serve, lead and share Jesus love with those in their communities.

-Mrs. Megan Shanks, Head of Upper Grades

