

## St. Patrick's School Frequently Asked Admissions Questions

### **What is the Admissions Criteria?**

There are several criteria considered when establishing priority during the registration process. These include: (No specific order of preference is intended by this listing)

- Active and participating parish affiliation at time of enrollment,
- Legacy,
- Availability of space,
- Number of years enrollee attended Catholic School or Religious Education Program,
- Religion of child or parent

The Catholic schools in the Diocese of San Diego, mindful of their mission to be witnesses to the love of Christ for all, admit students of any race, color, and national and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the schools. The Catholic schools in the Diocese of San Diego do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national and/or ethnic origin, age, sex or disability in the administration of educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

### **How do we enroll? Get more information? Take a tour? Speak to an administrator?**

You can complete an on-line enrollment form. However, the best process is to call the school and speak to the secretary. She would be happy to arrange for a visit, set up a conference time with an administrator, provide you with additional information or send you the information.

### **How do St. Patrick students' test scores compare to students in public and other Catholic schools?**

A student's academic growth is tracked on a year-to-year basis. On average, St. Patrick students display a 1.5-year's growth for one year of instruction. The Diocese of San Diego does not rank schools according to test scores.

### **Where do your graduates go to high school?**

Most of our graduates attend one of our local Catholic High Schools, Saint Augustine High School, Our Lady of Peace Academy, Cathedral Catholic High School, and Mater Dei Catholic High School. Since 2002 a total of 343 students graduated from St. Patrick School. Of that number 243 applied for Catholic High School, 224 were accepted. This results in a 92% acceptance record. Other students entered public and private high schools.

### **Do you have mandatory fund raising?**

We no longer make it mandatory for parents to fundraise. We do have three major fundraising events during the year, Fall Festival, Auction Dinner Dance, and our golf tournament "The Shamrock Open." Individual classes will also fundraise for specific events such as camp, retreat, overnight Star of India trip, and other special events. However, parents are not required to actively participate in raising funds for any of these events.

### **Are parents required to do service hours?**

Yes, families are asked to provide hours of service to the school according to the following categories: two-parent families, 40 hours per year; single-parent families 30 hours; military-families 30 hours. Twelve of the total number of service hours for each category must be accomplished during the Fall Festival and one-half of the total hours for each category must be completed by Christmas vacation.

There are numerous opportunities for parents to complete the service hour requirement of their enrollment obligation: classroom volunteers, drivers or chaperones for field trips, volunteering for class or school events, assisting with parish events i.e. Extraordinary Ministers, Religious Ed. Teachers, room parents, attendance at parent meetings, serving on a specific committee, just to name a few. Parents are responsible for keeping a written record of their service hours and returning them to the school office.

### **What is your tuition?**

The school has a set tuition schedule based on the religion of the child. We do offer a limited amount of tuition assistance. More information on this process can be given by contacting the school office. It is a policy of the parish, that no child will be denied access to a Catholic education based solely on financial hardship. While no one goes free, we are open to working with families.

### **How do you pay your tuition?**

Currently, the school bills families. Check, cash, or credit card may be used to pay tuition. Discounts are given for full payment of tuition.

### **Do you incorporate the common core state standards into your curriculum scheme?**

St. Patrick School follows the curriculum guidelines set by the Diocese of San Diego. The curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and Diocesan Curriculum guidelines. We are a Catholic school and therefore Catholic values are interwoven into all aspects of the school's curriculum.

### **Are you an accredited school?**

The Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accredit St. Patrick School. We completed our last visitation in the spring of 2015 and received a full 6-year term of accreditation.

### **What is your average class size?**

Grades Kindergarten through grade two are limited to 20 students per grade, 25 students in grades three through five, and 30 students in grades six through eight. Despite these preset maximums, the average primary class is approximately 18 students, 20 students in grades 3-5, and 23 students in grades 6-8.

### **Are your teachers credentialed?**

Classroom teachers are required to possess a California Credential or in the process of obtaining one.

### **Do you have much staff turnover?**

There is a healthy balance between experienced and new teachers. The average tenure among staff is 7 years.

### **Do you have before and after school care?**

Yes. Extended care is provided for all registered St. Patrick students on all but a few school days: First two days of school, Monday following the Fall Festival, Good Friday, and Last Day of School. Before day care begins at 7am until 8 am and after school care begins at 3pm and ends at 6pm.

### **Do you offer lunch for purchase?**

Yes, we do provide a student lunch for purchase. St. Patrick School is a part of the National School Lunch Program. The price per lunch is set based on a completed eligibility form parents complete at the start of each year. Prices vary from free to the full price of \$3.50 per lunch. Parents receive a full two-week menu and order accordingly.