

# Saint Matthew School

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Besides the standard academic courses, what “extras” are offered at St. Matthew?**

All SMS students participate in art, music, computer, and physical education classes, and spend time each week in the school library. Middle School (grades 6, 7, 8) students have those classes as well as additional enrichment throughout the year, including Spanish, choir, band, language arts, and fitness.

### **How is Middle School different from K-5?**

In grades K-5, students receive most of their academic instruction from one teacher. For grades 6, 7, and 8, students begin each day in homeroom and then move from class to class, learning science from one teacher, language arts from another, and so on. This structure offers students an integrated curriculum, more autonomy, and opportunities to take responsibility for their own learning.

### **How much time each week is spent on religious studies?**

St. Matthew’s curriculum reflects the religious-education requirements of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; students receive four to five hours of formal religious instruction each week. And during 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, some of the preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion occurs during the school day.

Because the Eucharist is central to our faith and our community, students attend an all-school Mass once during each school week, usually on Wednesday. We also join in group prayers to start and end each day, and at other times as appropriate. Less formally - but just as important - Christian values are continuously modeled by our teachers, staff, and parent volunteers.

### **What if my family isn’t Catholic?**

Children of all faiths are welcome at St. Matthew School.

### **Does St. Matthew have a maximum class size?**

We do our best to hold class size to 25 students. Each grade has two classes. Kindergarten has additional staff, with an instructional aide in each room. At times, however, class size may exceed 25.

### **When does the school day start and end?**

The school day begins at 7:50 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Students may enter the classroom as early as 7:30 a.m. Morning care is available for free for students who need to be dropped off between 7 and 7:30. After school extended care is available from 3 to 6 p.m. at a cost of \$3 per hour.

### **Does St. Matthew have bus service?**

No, we do not have bus service. Ninety-nine percent of our students are transported to and from school by their own parents or in carpools. This is made easier because St. Matthew is so conveniently located at East 56<sup>th</sup> and Binford Boulevard, a major corridor between Fishers/Castleton and downtown Indianapolis.

### **What kind of uniforms do students wear?**

Navy or khaki pants with red polo-style shirts are the attire for all students. On Mass days, all students are required to wear an SMS logo shirt, and girls must wear their plaid uniform jumper (K-3) or skirt/skort (4-8). Uniforms are available at specialty retailers, or in our annual free “uniform exchange” sponsored by the Parent-Faculty Association (PFA).

### **When do Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) sports begin?**

CYO football and wrestling(b) begins in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; other CYO sports for grades 4 and above - cross country (coed), volleyball(g), basketball(b/g), kickball(g), track(coed), baseball(b), softball(g), cheerleading(g)(grades 5-8), and soccer(coed). b=boys; g=girls; coed=boys and girls combined.

### **Where do graduating Saint Matthew students attend high school?**

The majority of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade enrolls and is accepted at Bishop Chatard High School or Cathedral High School. Other high school choices have been Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory and local public high schools.