



# HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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Back to School Packet 2024-2025



United in Christ to ignite the joy of  
faith, community and learning.

[school.stephen.org](http://school.stephen.org)





# HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

I am so honored and excited to be the new Home & School President.

This year we will continue to execute big plans to keep improving and doing our best to serve our school and parish. I hope that you will help us to find new and exciting ways to support our school and build our family of faith. Our Lord has given each one of you amazing gifts and talents to help serve our school and has put you here for this very moment in time. I can't wait to see how you use them and the impact we can make together! Please let me know how I can help you get involved and find the best fit!

-Sincerely In Christ-

Leigh Daly

Home & School President

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## JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S UPCOMING MEETINGS

All parents are members and are invited to attend!

**All meetings begin @ 6 PM**

Thursday, August 29, 2024

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

St. Stephen the Martyr Home & School Association  
is a great way to get involved and support our school!  
Through association dues, fundraising and volunteer hours,  
Home & School is able to sponsor and support many wonderful  
committees, activities and events throughout the entire school year!

## **GET INVOLVED**

We are always looking for volunteers to help serve our students and families! Click the 'Volunteer' button on the SSM School App or visit [school.stephen.org/volunteer](http://school.stephen.org/volunteer) to see what our current opportunities are. Don't see something that fits your talents? Email us at [ssmhomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:ssmhomeandschool@gmail.com) and we will get you connected with the right committee.

## **SUPPORT OUR WORK FOR THE SCHOOL**

Pay your Home & School Dues and Contributions Online\*.

\*Please note: to streamline the collection process, all dues and contributions will be processed online only.

Use the QR code below to complete the form. Get several annual donations and your dues paid all on one form online.

As a thank you for paying the \$30 annual H&S Association Dues, you will be provided with a hard copy of the School Directory.





# WHAT DO OUR FUNDS SUPPORT?

**YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE! THANKS TO YOUR DUES AND GENEROUS DONATIONS LAST YEAR WE PROVIDED THE SCHOOL WITH THE FOLLOWING:**



**Facility Upgrades**



**Family & School Support**



**Student Events & Support**



**Teacher & Staff Support**



**Curriculum & Classroom Materials**

- 
- Office Upgrades
    - Health Office Freezer
    - Gray Leather Sofa
    - Receptionist modular desks, cabinets & chairs
    - Security Camera TV Screen & Mount
    - Door Access Equipment
  - Outdoor Preschool Area Improvements:
    - Fencing
    - Landscaping & Rubber Mulch
    - Sprinklers
    - Concrete
    - Slide, Sand Table, Playhouse, Stepping Stones, Picnic Tables, Lawn Benches
  - Classroom Updates
    - new door handles & locks
    - desks
    - science tables
    - clocks (partially funded)
  - Artist of the Month Display Board Improvements & Banner
  - Family Events:
    - Fall Family Frolic at Valas
    - Breakfast in Bethlehem
    - Easter Egg Hunt
    - Trunk-or-Treat
    - Night at the Ball Park
    - 1st Communion Celebration
    - 8th Grade Graduation Luncheon
    - Summer Play Dates
  - Parent Events
    - First Day Hooray Coffee
    - Heavy Brewery Adult Night Out
  - School Events
    - Martyr Marathon
    - Open House
    - Back to School Night
  - School Supply Boxes
  - Used Uniform Sale & Created Used Uniform Closet in GPC
  - School Directory
  - Art to Remember
  - FACTS Family App
  - Sponsored a Dinner & Auction Live Auction Item for Parish Fundraiser
  - Boden Reischl Artist of the Month
  - New Student Welcome Activities
    - Welcome Signs
    - Preschool Welcome Gift
    - New Student T-Shirts
  - EPS Penny Wars
  - Events:
    - Halloween Parties
    - Santa Shoppe
    - St. Nicholas Ornament & Cookie Exchanges
    - Valentine's Day Parties
  - 8th Grade Scholarships
  - 8th Grade Confirmation Celebration
  - Musical: Finding Nemo, Jr.
  - Yearbook & New Yearbook Club
  - Staff First Day Back Breakfast
  - Teacher Meals for Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences
  - Teacher Christmas Gift Fund
  - Teacher Appreciation Week
  - Catholic Schools Week Luncheon
  - Teacher Snack Cart for Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences
  - Staff Birthdays
  - Teacher Hospitality Events
  - Theology of the Body Curriculum
  - Heggerty - Toucan Series of Decodable Books
  - Foundations Ready to Rise Student Practice & Student Notebooks for Literacy Intervention
  - Geodes Level 1: Classroom Interventionalist Reading Kit
  - \$200 for every teacher's classroom supplies
  - Reusable Ice Packs for Health Office
  - Walkie-Talkies for Internal Communications
  - Cabinets for TK classrooms
  - Preschool Sensory Table Toys
  - Flexible Seating for 2nd, 3rd & 6th Grade
  - Online Subscription to Catholic Teacher Resources
  - Student whiteboards for 4th grade

**LEARN MORE:**

[school.stephen.org/home-and-school](http://school.stephen.org/home-and-school)



Home & School Association enhances the spiritual, educational and physical well-being of the students of St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School. We exist to support the school's mission. Our work is divided into the below five pillars.

### **Special Gifts & Contributions**

The Special Gifts & Contributions pillar hosts events and activities to raise money for SSM. The impact of this pillar's efforts are felt throughout every corner of our school. Subcommittees include:

Martyr Marathon	Santa Shoppe
Dues/School Directory	Yearbook
Used Uniform Sale	Teacher Grants

### **Recruitment**

The Recruitment pillar is responsible for overseeing the recruitment and retention of students and their families.

Subcommittees include:

Back to School Night  
Welcome  
New Family Care  
Open House  
Summer Play Dates

### **Community**

The Community pillar hosts events and activities to build community within SSM.

Subcommittees include:

Fall Family Event  
Winter Adult Event  
Spring Family Event  
St. Nicholas Exchange  
1st Communion Celebration  
Confirmation Celebration  
8th Grade Graduation Lunch

### **Volunteer**

The Volunteer pillar coordinates parent volunteers for the school.

Subcommittees include:

Class Coordinators  
Book Fair/Library  
School Box Supplies  
Artist of the Month  
Musical  
Teacher Appreciation  
Teacher Hospitality  
Scholarships

### **Parish Outreach**

The Parish Outreach pillar helps grow our school community beyond our building walls and into the larger St. Stephen the Martyr family.

Subcommittees include:

Trunk or Treat  
Breakfast in Bethlehem  
Easter Egg Hunt  
EPS Penny War  
Grounds Clean Up  
Fasting Wednesday  
Liturgical Living  
Adoration

# HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**\*\*All Dates Subject to Change\*\***

## **August**

1-Teacher Wish Lists Active  
12-Kindergarten Welcome Yard Signs  
14-Teacher Hospitality: Welcome Staff Breakfast  
14-H&S Dues & Contributions Kickoff  
15-Back to School Event  
17-Final Tailgate\*  
19-First Day Coffee-Hooray  
21-1st Fasting Wednesday Begins  
22-Yearbook Club Kickoff Meeting 3:30  
24-Adult Night out @ Heavy Brewing  
29-Home & School Kickoff Meeting  
30-Martyr Marathon Kick Off Assembly 2:45

## **September**

1-H&S Dues Cutoff date for directory  
19 - Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30  
20-Martyr Marathon  
Teacher Hospitality Snacks  
School Directories Delivered

## **October**

1-Teacher Grant Application Open  
14-Fall Family Event: Valas  
17-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30  
25-Trunk or Treat  
31-Halloween Parties  
Teacher Hospitality Conference Lunch & Dinner Meals

## **November**

21-Teacher Appreciation: Christmas Gift Fund Kickoff  
21-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30  
Teacher Hospitality Snacks

## **December**

1-Musical Sign ups begin  
8-Breakfast in Bethlehem  
16-17-Santa Shoppe  
19-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30  
20-Teacher/Staff Christmas Gift Checks  
St. Nicholas Exchanges  
Teacher Hospitality Snacks

## **January**

14-Home & School Meeting  
16-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30  
18-Trivia Night\*  
21-30-EPS Penny War  
26-Open House  
31-Teacher Appreciation: Teacher Luncheon  
Musical Practices begin  
Teacher Hospitality Snacks

## **February**

12-Valentine's Day Parties  
20-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30  
Teacher Hospitality Conference Meal  
Scholarship Essay  
Movie Night

## **March**

1-Dinner and Auction\*  
20-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30  
Musical  
Teacher Hospitality Snacks

## **April**

16-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30  
27-Easter Egg Hunt  
2nd Grade 1st Communion Celebration  
8th Grade Confirmation Celebration  
Teacher Hospitality Snacks

## **May**

5-9-Teacher Appreciation Week  
6-Home & School Meeting  
14-Final Fasting Wednesday  
16-8th Grade Graduation Breakfast  
Spring Family Event  
Teacher Hospitality End of School Year Meal

## **June**

School Supply Box Orders Due  
Summer Playdate (incoming pre-K, TK, Kinder)

## **July**

Summer Playdate (incoming pre-K, TK, Kinder)

\*All Parish Event

# HOW TO STAY CONNECTED AT ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

We communicate with our SSM school community in many ways.

Here is an overview of what you can expect:

- **Email: Email is our primary communication channel.** Please ensure you have a current email updated in FACTS and on file with the School Office.
- **Martyr Messenger:** a bi-weekly newsletter sent out by administration. It is posted to our school app and online at: [school.stephen.org/martyr-messenger](http://school.stephen.org/martyr-messenger).
- **SSM School App:** We strongly encourage families to download our school app. It includes easy access to a variety of helpful things such as Announcements, the Lunch Menu, and more. It is available to download in the Apple & Google Play stores. To download, visit your app store and search "SSM School".
- **SSM Google Calendar:** contains all scheduled school activities as well as dress down days and days off. Located here: [school.stephen.org/google-calendar](http://school.stephen.org/google-calendar). For directions to add it to your personal calendar, visit [school.stephen.org/google-calendar-link](http://school.stephen.org/google-calendar-link).
- **Teacher Emails and Classroom Sites:** How frequently you'll hear from your child's teacher(s) will be discussed at Curriculum Night. You can always reach out to your child's teacher directly via email. Teacher emails can be found on [school.stephen.org/contact-us](http://school.stephen.org/contact-us) and classroom websites can be found at [school.stephen.org/classrooms](http://school.stephen.org/classrooms).
- **Friday Folders:** teachers send home forms and flyers parents will need to review and possibly send back.
- **Follow St. Stephen the Martyr on Social Media:**
  - **School:**
    - [facebook.com/ssmschoolomaha](https://facebook.com/ssmschoolomaha)
    - [instagram.com/ssmschoolomaha](https://instagram.com/ssmschoolomaha)
  - **Home & School Parent's Association:**
    - [facebook.com/SSMHomeAndSchool](https://facebook.com/SSMHomeAndSchool)
    - [instagram.com/ssmhomeandschool](https://instagram.com/ssmhomeandschool)
  - **Parish and School Sports Club:**
    - [facebook.com/ssmsportsclub](https://facebook.com/ssmsportsclub)
    - [instagram.com/ssm\\_sports\\_club](https://instagram.com/ssm_sports_club)
  - **Private Facebook Groups for Each Grade Level:** search Facebook for SSM Class of 20XY to find your child(ren)'s group. Stay informed and ask questions about every day class activities, field trips, sports, parties, etc.
  - **Parish Martyr Moms:** [facebook.com/groups/martyrmoms](https://facebook.com/groups/martyrmoms)

# Do you have the St. Stephen app?

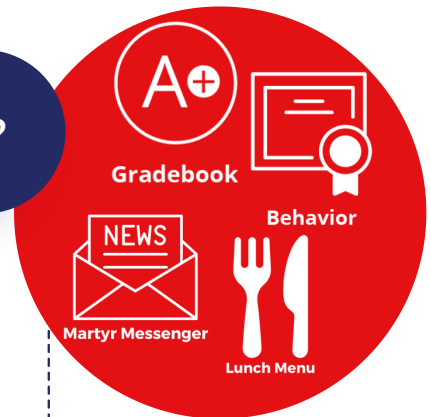


## What is the St. Stephen app?

Our app is a one-stop shop for our families to access all the tools, content, and communications needed to stay connected and engaged with our school. The app is FREE to download thanks to generous funding from St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School Home & School Association.

## What features does it have?

This app provides easy access to the Lunch Menu, Weekly Announcements, Martyr Messenger, our Family Calendar, Student Grades & Behavior, Volunteer & Sports Club sign-ups, FACTS Financial and so much more!



## Will I get lots of notifications?



Like all apps, you are able to choose your notification preferences. We keep notifications to a minimum, with only 1 - 2 messages per week. If you choose to turn off notifications, you are still able to see new messages when you open the app.

## How do I get the app?

The app is FREE and available to download in the Apple & Google Play stores. To download, scan this QR code & select your app store to download or search "SSM School" in your app store.

Available in:



App Store



Google Play





# Martyr Marathon

## September 20th, 2024

### What is Martyr Marathon?

Martyr Marathon is our school's largest fundraiser of the year (don't worry, no running is involved!). Martyr Marathon replaces the need to do any other fundraising throughout the year for the school. Students are encouraged to collect donations from family, friends, neighbors or businesses to support their school. Donors then pledge a flat donation in support of our school.

Students in grades K-8 will participate in an activity-filled course around the school and neighborhood. Students in the early childhood classes will participate in dance parties.

### Where will the money go?

Funds collected from this year's Martyr Marathon event will help underwrite the cost of updating restrooms throughout our school and professional development for our teachers.

Additional funds raised will be used for new student desks, security upgrades, and technology subscriptions. Your support is an integral part of our success.

### How do students collect pledges and raise money?

Reach out to friends, family, and neighbors! We use PledgeStar, an online fundraising tool that makes it easy for your child to request pledges and secure donations from family and friends -both near and far. Additionally, check with your employer to see if they will match your charitable donation!

### What is our 2024 fundraising goal?

This year, our All-School Goal is \$90,000 and we know we can do it with your help! If we reach this goal as a school (including Early Childhood students), each student will receive a goal bag full of gift cards, coupons, and other kid-friendly goodies and a day off of school!

### Home and School Facebook Page and Blitz Prizes

Watch St. Stephen's the Martyr Home & School Facebook page ([facebook.com/SSMHomeAndSchool](https://facebook.com/SSMHomeAndSchool)) and Instagram page (@SSMHomeandSchool) for a chance to win daily prizes starting August 29th.

**\*Look for more information in your child's Friday Folder on August 30th!**



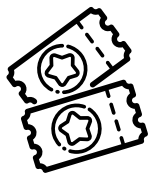
# How To Support Our School

Our school exists as a mission of St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church and through the support from her generous parishioners. That generosity is further enhanced by our school families. We cannot do it without all of you. We thank everyone who supports our school through their time, talent, and treasure.



## Support Our Church via Online Giving

Tuition covers about 50% of the cost to educate your child. The other 50% is funded by parishioner offertory gifts and donations. Your contributions help us meet operation expenses in several areas.



## Participate in Parish Led Fundraisers

**Trivia Night:** Compete in friendly Trivia (2025 Date: January 18th)

**Dinner & Auction:** Our largest Church fundraiser (2025 Date: March 1st)

**Joy of Giving:** Nebraska Catholic Day of Giving (2025 Date: TBA)



## Volunteer at St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School

Parent volunteers are needed throughout the school day and within extracurricular activities to enhance and enrich our students' school experience. View current opportunities at [school.stephen.org/volunteer](http://school.stephen.org/volunteer).



## Be A Corporate Sponsor

Want to support St. Stephen the Martyr School all while generating marketing exposure for your business? Funds raised help to expand our school's resources including technology, instructional materials, and facility upgrades.



## Support Martyr Marathon

Martyr Marathon is our school's largest fundraiser of the year, held in the Fall. Students collect pledges from family, friends, neighbors or businesses to support their walk on our marathon route. Donors pledge a flat donation.



## Does Your Employer Match Gifts?

Many area employers will match charitable contributions made by their employees and retirees, sometimes even on a one-to-one basis. We encourage you to see if you are eligible for a matching gifts program with your employer.

LEARN MORE AT: [SCHOOL.STEPHEN.ORG/SUPPORT](http://SCHOOL.STEPHEN.ORG/SUPPORT)

# SAFE ENVIRONMENT CERTIFICATION

Thinking about volunteering at SSM during the 2024/2025 school year? All school volunteers ages 19+ must be Safe Environment\* certified. Interested volunteers can complete the certification anywhere in Omaha.

## Here are a few upcoming area trainings:

**St Margaret Mary Parish, Omaha, 8/17/2024, 9:00 AM**

**St Mary Parish, Bellevue, 8/19/2024, 6:00 PM**

**St Vincent DePaul Parish, Omaha, 8/22/2024, 6:00 PM**

**St Gerald Parish, Ralston, 8/26/2024, 6:30 PM**

**Training is free of charge, but registration is required.  
Register at: [omaha.cmgconnect.org](https://omaha.cmgconnect.org)**

\*The Archdiocese of Omaha is committed to ensuring that all children can learn with smiles and open hearts from caring leaders in each one of our parishes, schools, and activities. The Safe Environment program is our Archdiocesan response to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Learn more about the Safe Environment program at: [archomaha.org/safe-environment](https://archomaha.org/safe-environment).

**Questions?**

**Contact Melissa Kane at  
[m.kane@stephen.org](mailto:m.kane@stephen.org) or 402-896-9675.**



# Yearbook

## Yearbook Purchases



**April 1 - May 5, 2025**

To try and streamline the yearbook purchasing process, yearbooks will **ONLY** be for sale during the April 1-May 5, 2025 window online through the yearbook website.

## Join the fun

7th & 8th Graders are invited to join the Home & School sponsored Yearbook Club. Learn all about creating and marketing the school yearbook. Yearbook club will meet monthly for an hour, August - April



**KICKOFF MEETING: August 22, 3:30-4:30**

**SIGN UP HERE!**



# TEACHER WISH LISTS ONLINE

Our Teachers' Wish Lists help our teachers stock their classrooms with items not provided through school funding. Please remember our specials and resource teachers, who provide enrichment for all of our students: Preschool – 8th grade!



To view the Teacher Wish Lists,

- Select “Teacher Wish Lists” in our SSM School App
- Scan the QR code
- Visit our website at [school.stephen.org/teacher-wish-lists](https://school.stephen.org/teacher-wish-lists).



Thank you for helping our teachers provide your child with additional joy and learning in our classrooms!

# Spirit wear

2024 - 2025

Omaha Travel Club Fundraiser  
for the 8th Grade  
Washington, D.C., Trip

\$20



\$35



\$20



\$35



SSM spirit wear  
may be worn by students  
on Martyr Mondays and  
on other designated  
spirit-wear days.

Questions? Please contact  
Malori Titman @  
[malorititman@gmail.com](mailto:malorititman@gmail.com)

FLAMES

Orders & more information scan here



\$20



# Please pray regularly for our parish and school!

Ways to Join Others in Praying:

## Fasting Wednesdays



**Intention:** Our School

**Fasting:** You choose the details of how you are going to fast. That can be from food (2 smaller meals equaling one meal, no food between meals, or no desserts...), screens, social media, etc. Whatever you choose, know you are joining a group of other parents and staff that are united by doing something on Wednesdays together.

**When:** Wednesdays through the year Aug. 21-May 14

**Reminders:** A text reminder goes out Wed mornings at 6:30 AM through Flocknote. It is a one way reminder 1x/week, and you will not be spammed.

**Join:** Using the QR code to the right.  
Then click on "Fasting."

**Questions:** Email Jamie Harr  
at [jamieharr@fastmail.com](mailto:jamieharr@fastmail.com)



## First Friday Adoration



Join us for Eucharistic Adoration in the Main Church on the 1st Friday of the month. Adoration begins following the 8:15 AM Mass until 2:30. You can also join the students for all school Benediction at 2:30 PM.

Are you interested in learning more about Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament? Please reach out to the Adoration Committee at [ststephenadoration@gmail.com](mailto:ststephenadoration@gmail.com).