



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Back to School Packet 2025-2026



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

school.stephen.org



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

As the President of the Home & School Association, it is both an honor and a privilege to welcome you all to the start of another blessed school year at St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School.

This year, as we face new opportunities and challenges, let us remember the importance of community. Together, with faith as our foundation, we can achieve great things. I encourage each of you to be active participants in this community – through volunteering, attending events, and simply supporting one another. Our collaboration ensures that our students are not only equipped with knowledge, but with the wisdom, compassion, and values that will guide them in life.

Together, let us make this year one of joy, learning, and service to others. I look forward to working alongside all of you to make it a memorable and successful year for our school family.

Thank you, and God bless each and every one of you.

-Sincerely In Christ-

Leigh Daly

Home & School President

JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S UPCOMING MEETINGS

All parents are members and are invited to attend!

All meetings begin @ 6 PM

Thursday, August 28, 2025

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Thursday, May 7, 2026

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!
Use the QR code below to see what our current opportunities are.



Don't see something that fits your talents?
Email us at 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.



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:



Family & School Support

- Family Events:
 - Fall Family Frolic at Vala's
 - 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
 - Parent's Night Out
- School Events
 - Martyr Marathon
 - Open House
 - Back to School Night
- School Supply Boxes
- Used Uniform Sale & Used Uniform Closet
- School Directory
- FACTS Family App
- Supported Dinner & Auction Parish Fundraiser
- Financial assistance for our families



Student Events & Support

- 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
- School Musical
- Yearbook & Yearbook Club



Teacher & Staff Support

- 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
- Teacher Grants for individual classroom & instructional needs



Curriculum & Classroom Materials

- Theology of the Body Curriculum
- CKLA Instructional Materials
- \$200 for every teacher's classroom supplies
- Internal Communications Upgrades
- Flexible Seating
- Online Subscription to Catholic Teacher Resources
- Classroom Updates
- Facility Updates
- Security & Safety Upgrades



HOME & SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION

LEARN MORE:

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 six 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:
Dues/School Directory
Used Uniform Sale
Santa Shoppe
Yearbook
Teacher Grants

Martyr Marathon

Martyr Marathon is our schools largest and only fundraiser of the year.....

Subcommittees include:
Fundraising
Logistics
Communications
Post Event
Merchandise

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
13-Teacher Hospitality: Welcome Staff Breakfast
14-H&S Dues & Contributions Kickoff
14-Back to School Event
18-First Day Coffee-Hooray
20-1st Fasting Wednesday Begins
23-Final Tailgate*
28-Home & School Kickoff Meeting
29-Martyr Marathon Kick Off Assembly 2:45

September

1-H&S Dues Cutoff date
3-Yearbook Club Kickoff Meeting 3:30
19-Martyr Marathon
27 - Adult's Night Out
Teacher Hospitality Snacks

October

1-Teacher Grant Application Open
15-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30
17-Trunk or Treat*
27-Fall Family Event: Vala's
31-Halloween Parties
Teacher Hospitality Conference Lunch & Dinner Meals

November

15-Trivia Night*
19-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30
21-Teacher Appreciation: Christmas Gift Fund Kickoff
Teacher Hospitality Snacks

December

1-Musical Sign ups begin
7-Breakfast in Bethlehem*
15 & 16 -Santa Shoppe
17-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30
20-Teacher/Staff Christmas Gift Checks
St. Nicholas Exchanges
Teacher Hospitality Snacks

January

21-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30
29-Home & School Meeting
20-29 -EPS Penny War*
25-Open House
Teacher Appreciation: Teacher Lunch
Musical Practices begin
Teacher Hospitality Snacks

February

13-Valentine's Day Parties
14-Dinner and Auction*
18-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30
Teacher Hospitality Conference Meal
Scholarship Essay

March

18-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30
Teacher Hospitality Snacks

April

12-Easter Egg Hunt*
15-Yearbook Club Meeting 3:30
2nd Grade 1st Communion Celebration
8th Grade Confirmation Celebration
Teacher Hospitality Snacks
Middle School Dance
Musical

May

4-8-Teacher Appreciation Week
7- Final Home & School Meeting
13-Final Fasting Wednesday
15-8th 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.
- **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. For directions to add it to your personal calendar, visit 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 and classroom websites can be found at 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
 - instagram.com/ssmschoolomaha
 - **Home & School Parent's Association:**
 - facebook.com/SSMHomeAndSchool
 - instagram.com/ssmhomeandschool
 - **Parish and School Sports Club:**
 - facebook.com/ssmsportsclub
 - 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

Do you have the SSM School app?

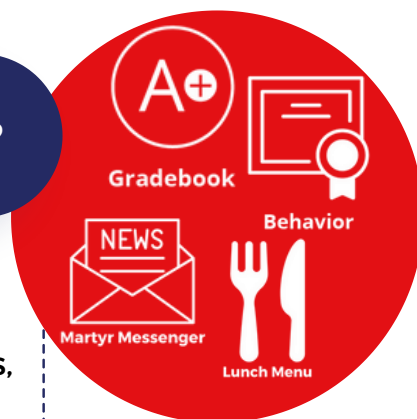


What is the St. Stephen's app?

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, our Family Directory, 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 or search "SSM School" in your app store.

Available in:



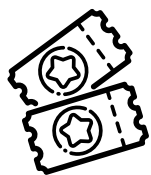
How To Support Our School

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.



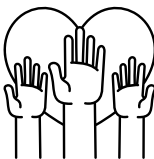
Support Our Church via Online Giving

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: November 15th)
Dinner & Auction: Our largest church fundraiser (2026 Date: February 14th)
Nebraska Catholic Day of Giving: State-wide giving day (May 6th, 2026)



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.



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

SAFE ENVIRONMENT CERTIFICATION

Thinking about volunteering at SSM during the 2025/2026 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 Patrick Parish, Elkhorn, 8/16/2025, 9:00 AM

St Wenceslaus Parish, Omaha, 8/16/2025, 9:00 AM

St Patrick Parish, Elkhorn, 8/25/2025, 6:00 PM

St. Stephen the Martyr, 9/24/2025, 6:30 PM

**Training is free of charge, but registration is required.
Register at: 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.

Questions?

Contact Adam Ybarra at a.ybarra@stephen.org

Yearbook

Yearbook Purchases



Pre-Order NOW

The '25-'26 yearbook is available for a pre-order purchase with the H&S dues for a discounted rate.



Join the fun

7th & 8th Graders are invited to join Yearbook Club. Learn about creating and marketing the school yearbook. Yearbook club meets monthly for an hour, October - April



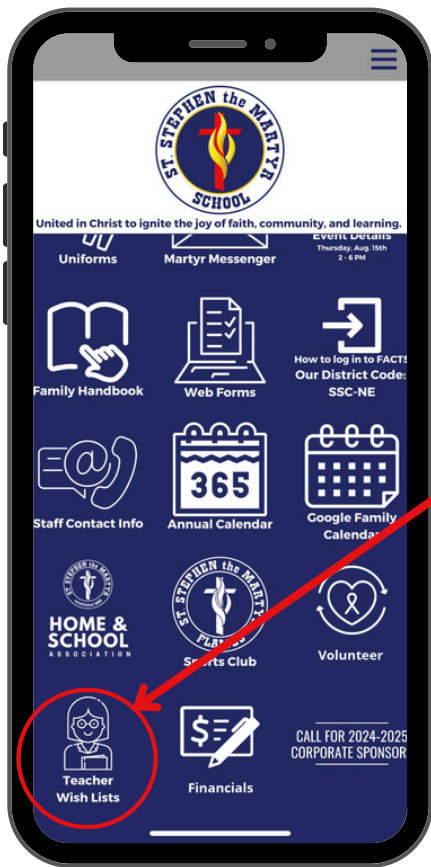
**KICKOFF MEETING: September 3rd,
3:30-4:30pm, Computer Lab RM**

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.



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

ST STEPHEN THE MARTYR

SPIRIT WEAR

2025-2026

*Help Support our 8th Graders
fundraise for their trip to DC. Spirit
Wear may be worn on Martyr
Mondays and other designated
spirit-wear days.*

\$35



ADULT \$24 YOUTH \$22



ADULT \$24 YOUTH \$22

scan here to order



ADULT \$24 YOUTH \$22



\$35

Questions? Please contact Ann Mace @ annemace1@gmail.com

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: ssmhomeandschool@gmail.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.

Gaîrée
ROSÉ
DINNER AND AUCTION



COME AND SEE NIGHT

BE PART OF THE MAGIC!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

6:00 PM | PARISH CENTER

We're planning something unforgettable for Valentine's Day 2026, and we need YOUR help to make it shine!

- Learn about volunteer roles - big and small
- Meet other volunteers
- Enjoy heavy apps and drinks
- Ask questions and get involved - no pressure!

**LET'S RAISE A GLASS AND GET EXCITED FOR
AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT!**

RSVP APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED:

Contact Catiana Urrutia | c.urrutia@stephen.org

DIGITAL BACK TO SCHOOL PACKET



Starting next year, we will be transitioning to a fully digital format. Limited hard copies will be available at Back to School Night.

To view the digital directory, please scan the QR code below.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to ssmhomandschool@gmail.com.