



THE ST. ROBERT

REPORTER

ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Fueling the light of Christ through faith, service, and academic excellence.

BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

AUGUST 5, 2026

Dear St. Robert Families,

We hope you have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and are ready to kick off the 2026-2027 school year! The staff is well-rested and eager to have you back! We look forward to welcoming our Kindergarten-8th grade students on Tuesday, August 25, 2026! It will be a half day of school, starting at 7:45 a.m. and dismissing at 10:55 a.m. Regular school day hours: 7:45 a.m.- 2:35 p.m.

Please mark your calendars:

Tuesday, 8/25	Half day of school (10:55 a.m. dismissal, no buses)
Wednesday, 8/26	Full day of school, Busing, Breakfast & Lunch begin, 8:30 a.m. All School Mass, No ESP
Thursday, 8/27	Regular day of school, No ESP
Friday, 8/28	Regular day of school, No ESP
Monday, 8/31	First Day for 5 Day Preschool, ESP begins
Tuesday, 9/1	First Day for 3 Day Preschool

Back to School Bash & Supplies

This year, we are bringing back our ["Back to School Bash"](#) on Thursday, August 20 at 6:00 p.m.! Join us, open house style, to enjoy a hot dog and ice cream, see your friends, get your yearbook, decorate your locker, drop off supplies, meet your teacher, see your classroom, visit Angel's Attic, the Dress Code Pop Up Shop, and feel the excitement in the air!

Your enrollment fee was adjusted to cover the cost of many school supplies, and we've already purchased most of them for you! You can find the School Supply Lists [HERE](#) - these include only the few additional items students need to bring. All other supplies will be provided and distributed in class as needed.

First Day Drop-Off & Morning Prayer

We are so excited to welcome all of our Kindergarten-8th Grade students back for the 2026-2027 school year on Tuesday, August 25! Our Preschoolers will join us the following week, but we will see them around the school a bit as they come for Preschool Preview Days during the first week back for everyone else!

Doors will open at 7:15 a.m. for student drop-off (see the map at the end of this letter). Students will gather by class, and parents are invited to stay for our Back to School Prayer & Blessing of the Backpacks with Fr. Brian and Fr. Christian. After our whole-school prayer, teachers will lead their classes to their classrooms one at a time - this helps ease those first-day jitters!

New Family Welcome Reception

Thursday, August 20th ~ 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

SRS School Library

Join us in the library for a short presentation and Q&A session, and stay for the "Back to School Bash" immediately following! Students are welcome to join parents and meet some of the "Faces of SRS."

Dress Code

Please see the updated Dress Code protocol here:

 [2026-2027 Dress Code](#) 

One of the significant changes for this year is that each Friday will be a "Jean Day" - jeans/jean shorts may be worn with either SRS Spirit wear or dress code tops. There is no charge.

Just as a reminder, Tommy Hilfiger is a distributor for us, but can also find the correct plaid on French Toast ("Navy Red Plaid")

Device Policy

As we begin this school year, we are looking forward to continuing to build a strong, faith-filled learning environment for all of our students. In alignment with the Diocese of Lansing and our commitment to academic excellence and personal connection, St. Robert follows both the Diocese of Lansing Policy, as well as our own.

This policy is designed to reduce distractions, support healthy development, and help students focus on what matters most - learning, relationships, and growing in faith. We know this is a shift for many families, and we appreciate your support as we work together to create the best environment possible for your children.

You'll find the full policy outlined below, along with a short FAQ. Please take a moment to review it with your child before the first day of school.

 [SRS Cell Phone & Personal Device Policy](#)
[DOL Cell Phone & Personal Device Policy](#) 

Bus Variances

State of Michigan Law concerning the transportation of students to and from school requires that all students be transported to/from their home address unless a special variance has been approved. No bus variances will be processed or granted between Monday, August 3, 2026 and Tuesday, September 8, 2026 as bus routes become finalized.

Variances not turned in to the school office by the Monday, August 3rd deadline will be put on "hold" until Tuesday, September 8, 2026 as bus routes become finalized. Bus variances must be approved by the school office before the change can occur.

A request for Transportation Variance (Bus Variance) is easily accessible on our school website by going to the "Student Life" tab and then clicking on "Transportation."

Staffing Update

We're excited to share some important updates, including staff changes, scheduling improvements, and exciting new additions to our school day. I want to warmly welcome Mrs. Swales, Mr. Schaefer, Miss McGinnis, and Miss Goodman to the teaching staff. We are still on the hunt for a math teacher for the middle school - please keep praying! We are so close!

Mrs. Swales

8th Grade Homeroom
Middle School Science
S.T.E.M.

Coming Soon

7th Grade Homeroom
Middle School Math

Mrs. Kelly

6th Grade Homeroom
Middle School History
Spanish/Life Skills

Mrs. Kovel

5th Grade Homeroom

Miss Goodman

Middle School Religion

Mrs. Trantham

4th Grade

Mrs. Klump

3rd Grade

Mr. Schaefer

2nd Grade

Mrs. Towns

1st Grade

Miss McGinnis

Kindergarten

Mrs. Stankiewicz

Preschool 4's

Mrs. Danaho

Preschool 3's

Mrs. Bobalik - Administrative Assistant (all tuition/registration processing)

Mrs. Belott - Building Secretary

Mrs. Kushon - Food Service Director and ESP Teacher

Mr. Holmberg - Music/Band

Mrs. Reineke - Art

Mr. Zintsmaster - Gym, Athletic Director

Mr. Bobalik - 1st - 3rd Technology, Oxford Mentor

Mrs. Partlow - Title I Tutor

Mrs. Stimac - Title I Tutor, Library/Media Class

Mrs. Haj - Life Coach

Food Service

We are excited to continue offering breakfast and hot lunch for our students this school year!

Breakfast will operate like our Hot Lunch program. Students who are eating breakfast should be dropped off at the Activity Center between 7:00–7:20 a.m. Breakfast will be served until 7:20 a.m., and students will be dismissed at 7:30 a.m. to walk together to the school building.

- Breakfast is available on all school days. Hot Lunch is available on all full days of school.
- Breakfast and lunch charges will be billed through FACTS under Incidental Billing.

We are currently awaiting notification from the State of Michigan regarding whether St. Robert will qualify to provide meals at no cost to all students under the state's recently approved budget. Until that determination is made, the current meal prices are listed on the school menus in the links below.

Out of an abundance of caution, we will not be serving lettuce on the salad bar until at least October. In the meantime, it will be fresh fruits and veggies which will be washed meticulously. This is a requirement (to serve fruits and vegetables) as a part of the School Lunch Program.

Regardless of whether your family believes you qualify, we ask that every family complete the Free & Reduced-Price Meal Application. This application does much more than determine meal eligibility - it also helps St. Robert qualify for federal Title funding that supports services for our students, including intervention, tutoring, and other academic programs. Do you qualify? Click here for [guidelines](#).

Please complete the Free & Reduced-Price Meal Application here: [F&R Application](#)

Please click here for monthly menus and any updated meal pricing: [August Menu](#) & [September Menu](#)

Parent Information Night

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Kindergarten - 8th Grade

Parent Information Night will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. in the church with a brief welcome and presentation. Following the presentation, parents will rotate to their children's classrooms to meet their teachers. If you have more than one child, you'll have the opportunity to visit each classroom during scheduled rotations.

This evening is designed for parents and guardians only so that teachers can share important information about the school year and answer your questions. Childcare will be available on the playground. Please take your child directly to the playground, sign them in, and then proceed to the church.

Starting the school year with a strong partnership between home and school is one of the greatest gifts we can give our students. Parent Information Night is an important opportunity to build that foundation of communication from day one.

During the evening, you will:

- Meet your child's teacher(s)
- Learn classroom expectations, routines, and goals for the year
- Receive the 2026-2027 School Handbook
- Have the opportunity to ask questions and connect with our staff

Even if you're a returning family, we encourage you to attend! We have many new faces on our team this year, along with new procedures and exciting plans for the year ahead. We look forward to seeing you as we kick off another wonderful year at St. Robert!

Extended School Program (ESP)

ESP continues to accept St. Robert students ages four and older. The program will open at 2:30 p.m. and will remain open until 5:30 p.m. at the rate of \$7.00 per student per hour. You can find more information and registration paperwork on the school website (www.strobertschool.com) in the Extended School Day Program section.

Please note that ESP will begin on Monday, August 31st. All students *must* be preregistered and have completed paperwork on file *before* they may attend.

Click here for the handbook and registration forms: [2026-2027 Registration Handbook](#)

Medication Reminder

State of Michigan school code requires that all medicines given at school shall have a doctors order / parent permission authorization form, which includes dosage, signed and on file at school in order to administer the medication. This includes all over-the-counter medication such as Tylenol, cough medicines, cough drops, nasal spray, etc.

Authorization forms must be filled out and signed by a doctor AND signed by a parent before any medication (prescription or OTC) can be administered at school. The school cannot administer medication if the completed form has not been returned. Forms are available in the school office.

Medication (prescription and OTC) must come to school in its original container (no medicine sent in baggies), and liquid medication must include a measuring spoon/cup.

P.T.O. (Parent Teacher Organization)

We are blessed to have an incredible group of parents who generously give their time and talents to support our students, staff, and school community. We'd love to have you join us!

Whether you enjoy brainstorming new ideas, helping organize events, or simply want to be more involved at St. Robert, there's a place for you. We meet once a month in the school library for coffee, snacks, and great conversation as we plan fun activities, build community, encourage our staff, and create special experiences for our students.

No long-term commitment is required - come when you can! We'd love to welcome you.

This year's meeting dates:

Saturday, August 15	9:00-10:00 AM
Saturday, September 12	9:00-10:00 AM
Tuesday, October 6, 2026	5:00-6:00 PM
Tuesday, November 10, 2026	5:00-6:00 PM
Saturday, December 12	9:00-10:00 AM
Saturday, January 9, 2027	9:00-10:00 AM
Saturday, February 20	9:00-10:00 AM
Saturday, April 10, 2027	9:00-10:00 AM
Saturday, May 1	9:00 - 10:00 AM

Arrival Procedures

The safety of our students is our highest priority. Please follow the procedures below to help ensure a safe and efficient arrival and dismissal for everyone.

School Hours

- The school building opens at 7:15 a.m.
- Students may proceed to their classrooms beginning at 7:30 a.m.
- Students eating breakfast should enter through the Activity Center doors.

Bus Riders

- Buses enter through the north entrance on Henry Street (main office doors).
- Students riding the bus should enter the building immediately upon arrival.

Car Riders

- There is no Kindergarten-8th grade drop-off or parent parking in the teacher parking lot on Henry Street.
- Henry Street is a BUS ZONE ONLY from 7:00-7:45 a.m. and 2:00-2:45 p.m. No parent vehicles may use this area during those times.
- All students arriving by car must be dropped off at the south school entrance (church parking lot) by entering from McKinley Road.

Drop-Off Traffic Pattern

1. Travel south on McKinley Road and enter the east parking lot.
2. Follow the designated traffic pattern toward the south school entrance.
3. Students should exit the vehicle from the passenger (right) side only.
4. Staff members will be present to assist students.

Please remain in the traffic line, be patient, and take turns to help keep everyone safe.

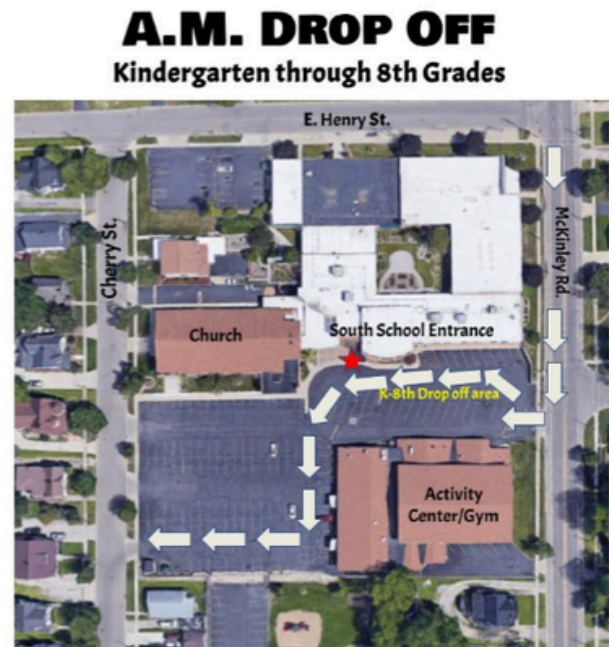
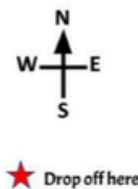
Families Parking & Walking Students In

If you choose to park and walk your child to the building:

- Enter from Cherry Street heading south.
- Park in the lower church parking lot closest to the church.
- Park facing south and use the sidewalk to escort your child to the south school entrance.

Student Entrance

Unless arriving by bus or for breakfast, all Kindergarten through 8th grade students - whether arriving by car or on foot - should enter through the south school entrance located in the church parking lot.



Dismissal Procedures

Student safety is our top priority. To help ensure a safe and efficient dismissal, please follow the procedures below.

Daily Dismissal

- Dismissal begins at 2:35 p.m.
- Bus riders will be dismissed beginning at 2:32 p.m.
- Car riders and walkers will be escorted by their teachers to the south school entrance (church parking lot) for dismissal.

Car Pick-Up

- Parents should park in the south church parking lot, facing the church.
- Staff members will dismiss vehicles in an orderly and controlled manner.
- For the safety of our students, please remain patient, follow staff directions, and wait your turn to exit the parking lot.

Early Dismissal

To minimize classroom interruptions and ensure student safety:

- Please notify the school office in advance if your child will be leaving early.
- A written note or phone call from a parent or guardian is required for early dismissal. (Phone calls should be reserved for unexpected circumstances whenever possible.)
- If someone other than a parent or legal guardian will be picking up your child, advance written or verbal authorization is required.
- Unless a court order is on file with the school, both parents will be granted equal pickup privileges.

Late Pick-Up

- Prompt pick-up is important for your child's safety.
- Students who have not been picked up by 2:45 p.m. on full days or 11:05 a.m. on half days will be brought to the school office and then checked into the Extended School Program (ESP) for supervision.
- Families will be charged the current ESP drop-in rate of \$7.00/hr., per child, plus a \$10.00 drop-in fee.



Proceed South down Cherry St. to enter the parking lot. All cars should face the church/North. Students will be dismissed, and once all students are in cars, we will dismiss row by row by school personnel.

P.M. PICK UP Kindergarten through 8th Grades

