



St. Rose of Lima Elementary School

STUDENTS PRE-K THROUGH 6TH GRADE

St. Rose of Lima Elementary School, rooted in Catholic values, strives to achieve educational excellence by facilitating the intellectual, spiritual, and physical growth of each child and promoting a community of faith, hope, love and service.

Parent Weekly Update

September 13, 2025 - September 19, 2025

Important Dates at a Glance

Saturday, September 13, 2025 - HSA Fall Festival - 6:00 PM - entrance by ticket only

Sunday, September 14, 2025 - Holy Sprouts Children's Group at 10:30 AM at St Rose of Lima Church

Monday, September 15, 2025 - STAR Testing in Reading grades K-6

Monday, September 15, 2025 - Cross Country practice until 4:30 PM

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 - STAR Testing in Math grades 1-6

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 - Ice Cream is sold at both lunches for \$1.00 cash

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 - Band Lessons and Practice

Wednesday, September 17, 2025 - School Closed for students - Diocesan Education Conference

Thursday, September 18, 2025 - Box Tops Dress Down Day - Autumn Vibes theme

Friday, September 19, 2025 - School Mass at 8:30 AM - school families are welcome

Fall Fest is Here!!

This Saturday, September 13, 2025, our Home and School Association and our Fathers' Club is hosting a Fall Festival from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Our Fathers' Club will make/serve hot dogs and chips with apple cider donuts for dessert. From 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM there will be face painting, pumpkin painting, wagon hay rides, a petting zoo, and fun on the playground. Then, at 7:00 PM everyone will move to the gym for a move and popcorn. Don't miss this fun-filled event!!

STAR Testing

All students in grades K through 6 will participate in the STAR standardized testing in September.

Students in grades K-6 will be tested in Reading Comprehension on Monday, September 15 and

grades 1-6 will be tested in Math on Tuesday, September 16 Testing times will be from 8:30 AM until 10:00 AM both days. I encourage you to make sure your children get the proper rest before the tests, have a healthy breakfast, and bring a book to read should they finish testing early. All students should plan to arrive at school on time each of those days to ensure they have the full time available for testing.

Closed on Wednesday, September 17

School is closed for students on Wednesday, September 17 due to our teachers and staff attending the Diocesan Education Conference in Harrisburg. School will reopen on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 7:30 AM. Thank you!

Physical and Dental Forms

Students who are in grades K, 3, and 6 must have a current physical and dental form on file in our school office. This is a state law and is required of all families. Please contact our school office if you need a new form or you may go to our website under student life and then parents.

Hot Lunch Program/Lunchtime Accounts

Our hot lunch program has begun. All St. Rose of Lima students are able to purchase hot lunch and/or milk through our lunch program. Our Cafeteria Manager, Ms. Kaitlin Duff, provided a letter on Back to School Night informing parents what they must do to set up a Lunchtime account. **Parents must use the Lunchtime account to purchase hot lunches for their students.** A monthly menu will be sent home with students to inform them of the lunch options each day. For your convenience, nutritional information for each meal provided is listed on our school website. **In addition, ice cream will be sold on Tuesdays for \$1.00 cash.**

Student Planners

Students in grades 3-6 use a school planner to write homework and other important information at the conclusion of each school day. The cost of the planner is \$6.00. Parents may pay by cash or check made payable to St Rose of Lima Elementary School. All money is due by Friday, September 5, 2025. Thank you for your support.

Student Handbook Signature Page

Student Handbooks and calendars were given to each of our families at our annual Back to School Night. The back page of the handbook is a signature page that must be signed and returned to the office. **We keep this signature page in your child's file. If you have not returned this signature page, please do so as soon as possible. The due date was Friday, September 5, 2025.** Thank you for your support.

Labeling Children's Belongings

As the weather begins to change and students begin wearing sweaters and sweatshirts, our Lost and Found box begins to fill up. The Lost and Found box is also filling up with lunchboxes and water bottles. We ask that you please label your children's belongings so that we are able to identify items left behind and get them back to their rightful owners.

Box Tops Dress Down Day

On Thursday, September 18, 2025, we will hold our Box Tops Dress Down Day. The theme is Autumn Vibes so students are asked to focus on warm, fall colors, warm layers, plaid flannel, denim, and comfortable boots. We ask families to send their Box Tops electronically to Mrs. Raetz at mraetz@stroseschoolpa.org. Thank you!

Handbook Highlights

Casual Dress Requirements/Dress Down Days: On certain occasions, students may be granted permission to wear casual apparel to school. The following regulations will be enforced:

- No cut-off jeans or jeans with holes
- Shirts must be long enough to tuck in
- No midriffs or muscle shirts
- No oversized t-shirts may be worn - shorts/slacks/skirts must be fully visible below the t-shirt
- No hats, no flip-flops, or pajamas
- Proper undergarments must be worn
- No inappropriate and/or offensive pictures or sayings on clothes
- No writing on seat of any garment
- All clothing must be neat and clean
- No open back shoes/no open toe shoes/no high heels
- **Leggings/jeggings/yoga pants may not be worn as a substitute for pants**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR INFORMATION

Parents/guardians are responsible to ensure St. Rose of Lima Elementary School has up-to-date contact information each school year. Parents must notify the school of changes to mailing addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, parish affiliations, etc. by contacting the school office at 717-792-0889. Certain changes such as name changes will require official documentation.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

All families are required to provide the following information to the school on the **first day of school**:

- Parent(s) or guardian(s) name(s)
- Complete and up-to-date address
- Home phone and parent(s) work phone
- Emergency phone number of friend or relative
- Medical alert information
- Email address.

****Your students may be kept out of the classroom if the required emergency information is not on hand for the first day of school as well as required immunizations. It is important that we have communications.**

After-School Clubs

Our After-School Clubs are beginning next week. Below is a listing of the clubs we offer and the season it is being offered. Registration information on the clubs will be sent home by the moderators. We encourage all students to participate in one or many of these After-School Clubs.

Day	Club Name/Time/Moderator
Monday	Cross Country (3:30 - 4:30) - Fall and Spring
Tuesday	Dance Club (3:30 - 4:30) - All Year Science Explorers (3:30 - 4:30) - All Year
Wednesday	Game Club (3:30 - 4:30) Winter Soccer Club (3:30 - 4:30) Fall and Spring Tech Club - during day - All Year
Thursday	St Rose Star Performers (3:30 - 4:30) - All Year
Friday	Girls' Club (3:30 - 4:30) - All Year

Text Alerts

All families in our St Rose of Lima Elementary School community are required to place on file a cell phone number and email address where you can be reached by text alerts. Text alerts are sent to you regarding changes in our daily routine, such as school closings, cancellation of after school activities, changes to the lunch offerings, emergency information, and more. Please make sure you have a cell phone number and email address on file with our office so that you may receive these important text messages. If you are not sure if you are receiving text alerts, please contact Mrs Raetz at 717-792-0889. Thank you.



Counselor's Corner

I hope everyone's school year is off to a great start. I'm so excited to be back at St. Rose Elementary again this year! I hope you had a wonderful summer break, and your students are getting back into the routine of school. Unfortunately, transitioning back into the routines and schedules of the school can be challenging at times. This article about [Back to School Routine Tips](#) has some helpful tips to make things a little easier as we transition back into school mode. Hopefully, having more days with regular routines under your belt will begin to make things easier.

We have begun classroom Guidance lessons for grades K-6, and I met with almost all of the new students to see how the transition is going for them. My Introductory lessons explained what my role is, and what I do here at St. Rose to help the students in grades K-6 grow and learn. Like last year, the students will have Guidance class lessons every other week, and will often be bringing home activities that we have completed. If you ever have any questions about our activities, or the material covered in our classes, please feel free to email me at mjwaltersdorff@iu12.org and we can discuss them in more detail.

Along with classroom lessons, I will also be meeting with students individually or in small groups on a short-term basis, when either a teacher or a parent asks me to work with them on something. The goal of school counseling is to work with students for a few weeks in order to help them be successful academically, socially and emotionally. This is very different from counseling or therapy outside the school setting. I realize this can be a little confusing, but if you have any concerns or questions regarding how I can help your child be successful at school, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I'm looking forward to partnering with you to help your student(s) have a great year!

Regards,
Mrs. Melissa Waltersdorff, M.S. (a.k.a. Mrs. W.)
School Counselor
mjwaltersdorff@iu12.org

(Please see our school website under Newsletters for the electronic link to the Back to School Routine article)