



SAINT AGNES SCHOOL

The smartest start for your child

March 15, 2023

Dear Parents, Parishioners, and Friends,

On behalf of the Education Council and faculty, I am pleased to share an update from St. Agnes School. We recently enjoyed our annual Catholic Schools Week celebration, which began with a Mass held at Scott's Cobble Nordic Center and a festive afternoon of skiing, snowshoeing, and hot chocolate. Over the course of the week, our students and teachers celebrated 'faith, excellence, and service' by participating in leadership projects, taking field trips, and enjoying special activities at the school.

We continue to be grateful for the restored sense of normalcy following school years marked by pandemic restrictions and concerns. Our students are thriving. Our third graders in particular are becoming responsible leaders by organizing and participating in monthly service projects and actively mentoring younger students. Students in all grades have enjoyed re-connecting with our community during field trips to Tucker Farms, the Lake Placid Olympic Museum, the Whiteface Lodge, FISU Games, the Palace Theatre, Mt. Van Hoevenberg, and even Mirror Lake for a dog sled ride.

We are also grateful for the hard work of our talented faculty and committed parents on projects that ensure the success of the school in the following areas: curriculum and professional development; health and safety; and school climate and development. We are especially pleased to have completed the first phase of two to upgrade our electrical plant and heating and cooling systems. Projects like these keep St. Agnes a safe and inspiring place in which to learn and grow.

Enrollment is strong in our preschool and primary grades, and we expect to be fully enrolled again for the 2023-2024 school year. Many families have already enrolled for Kindergarten and grades 1-3, and we receive new preschool inquiries and applications almost daily. Should you know of a family new to our parish or town, I hope you will encourage them to schedule a visit to the school. Parents of children age 3 to grade 3 can also call the office for a welcome packet or visit www.stagneslp.org for information about our school year and summer programs.

We extend our sincere appreciation to parishioners and friends. Please know that you are welcome to visit, volunteer, and attend school events. Thank you all for your wonderful support of the school.



Sincerely,

Catherine Bemis
Principal



THE SMARTEST START

"The Smartest Start for Your Child" became our tagline – and our promise – ten years ago. First suggested by Father John at an Education Council meeting, the phrase rang true to those in the room and continues to resonate with our families. To have a child attend St. Agnes is to put his or her spiritual and academic growth in very capable hands. It is also to join a community of parents and teachers who want children's first school experiences to be great ones.

Angela Price, Advancement Director, parent of Finley '14
Years at St. Agnes: 10



SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

I am proud that St. Agnes' signature programs emphasize growth and development. These include SPARK (STEM, Play, Art & Recreation for Kids – our afterschool and summer programs), GAP (Growth Achievement Program – our intervention, enrichment, and accelerated learning opportunities), and SEL (Social-Emotional Learning – our focus on children's wellbeing and relationships). As teachers of students for their first six years in school, we know that highly intentional programs that value skill development result in school success.

Christy Favata, 2nd and 3rd grade teacher
Years at St. Agnes: 8



PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

Integral to our students' experience is our collaboration with parents. Students thrive when there is a strong bridge between home and school. Here, we place great value on having a positive school culture and climate and offer many opportunities for parents to become involved in their children's education and the life of the school. We wholeheartedly believe that when parents and teachers work together, children are more engaged in learning and invested in their community.

Katie Turner, Family Support Coordinator, parent of Olivia '20
Years at St. Agnes: 7



CONFIDENCE AND CREATIVITY

At St. Agnes, our music program instills confidence and creativity and enriches the entire curriculum. From a very young age children gravitate toward and enjoy listening to and making music. Music supports neurodevelopmental growth, especially parts of the brain responsible for processing sound and developing language. Ultimately, music is fun – and it is incredibly rewarding to, at a relatively small school, offer a robust program with several performances throughout the year.

Jessica Deeb, Music Teacher
Years at St. Agnes: 11

SPRING AND SUMMER 2023

Many families have enrolled their children in preschool and primary school for the 2023-24 academic year, and we have a priority deadline of May 5th. Information about all programs, our Welcome Book, and enrollment forms can be found on our website: www.stagneslp.org. Also, enrollment folders are available in the front office. New and returning parents are welcome to call with any questions or to schedule an appointment with Principal Catherine Bemis.

We began receiving inquiries about SPARK Summer Camp last fall! We strongly encourage new and returning campers to enroll in one or more of our three, 3-week sessions, ahead of the registration deadline of May 5th. On most days, camp will be held at the Daisy Reiss property, which has hiking trails, a heated swimming pool, and plenty of indoor and outdoor space for sports and games, science and art activities, and the music program. This year we are pleased to offer a week of Camp Invention, a confidence-building STEM program for creative, young inventors. This nationally renowned program will be offered at no extra cost to SPARK campers.

We extend a warm welcome to families, parishioners, and friends to join us for our end-of-year celebrations, which will include the primary school musical *Jungle Book* on May 18th. Preschool graduation will take place on June 15th, and the Kindergarten-3rd grade awards ceremony and graduation will be held on June 16th.

Please set aside the evening of June 8th to attend the 20th Annual Spring Gala at Big Slide Brewery. Chris and Catherine Ericson, parents of Grace '14 and C.J. '18, host this wonderful event, and our parent volunteers have begun to assemble a terrific silent auction. Keep a lookout for your invitation in May. Space is limited, so be sure to RSVP early.

Important Dates:

April 17	School resumes
May 4	Open House – all are welcome!
May 5	Priority enrollment deadline
May 5	Priority camp deadline
May 12	May Crowning
May 18	Spring Musical
June 8	20th Annual Spring Gala
June 14	Author's Night
June 15	Preschool graduation
June 16	Kindergarten-3rd awards and graduation
June 26	SPARK Summer Camp begins
June 30	Annual Car Raffle kick off



Charitable Gifts

We wish to thank the following individuals, foundations, and businesses that have contributed to Adopt-a-Student and made other restricted gifts and grants between July 1, 2022 and March 15, 2023. We regret any omissions and will make corrections to the final list we publish when our fiscal year ends June 30. Please contact development@stagnesp.org.

\$10,000+

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