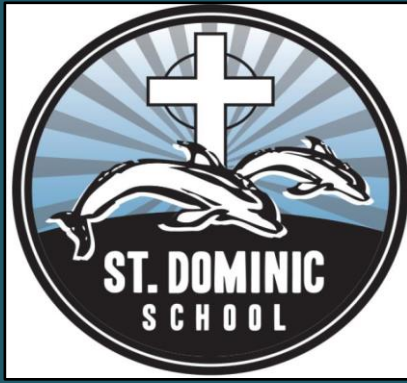




**I have said this to you,
so that in me you may have *peace*.
In the world you face persecution.
But take courage;
I have conquered the world!
John 16:33**

St. Dominic School of St. Anthony of Padua Parish

Where Holy Moments Happen Every Day

2026-2027 Welcome Back to School Parent Letter

Dear St. Dominic School Family,

Welcome back to school for the 2026-2027 school year! I hope you have enjoyed a relaxing summer with your family and friends. I pray that your family is happy, healthy, and getting ready to begin a new school year as members of our St. Dominic School Family.

Let us begin by reflecting on our genuine partnership between school staff and school parents. Our school staff recognizes that parents are the first and primary educators of their children. St. Dominic School is privileged to partner with parents who are committed to the quality of their children's learning experience, and who realize that the values their children learn are just as important as any instructional content. We approach this partnership in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation, and genuinely appreciate the many ways in which parents strengthen and support our school's culture.

Every year, we look forward to the opportunity to enhance our Catholic community of service and culture of belonging. At St. Dominic School, no one learns or provides service alone. Students and staff flourish in a community, where they can be assured that they belong and know they are loved. We foster a learning community in which all members - students, teachers, families, parishioners - benefit from the bonds they form with one another through service, where everyone has a place and a stake in the school's present and future wellbeing.

I am sincerely grateful to God for our blessings of faith, patience, and kindness. Faith in our Lord holds our school family together and helps us grow closer to Him. Patience and kindness guided by the Holy Spirit provides the strength we need to develop relationships and care for one another. We have experienced many Holy Moments over the years by doing what our Heavenly Father calls us to do for each other. Please join me in giving thanks to God for His many blessings and gifts!

Therefore, let us begin this school year with the relationships we have developed and nurtured so we can remain in partnership and fulfill our school mission, which states "*The mission of the Quincy Catholic School system is to form the next generation of Catholic disciples of Christ, in communion with families and parishes, through spiritual growth and academic excellence.*"

The following procedures will help us get off to a good start as we begin our school year together.

ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

- Students attending Before School Care will ring the bell and enter with their parent through the northwest side door between 6:30 – 7:45 a.m.
- After 7:45 a.m., students attending Before School Care will ring the front doorbell and enter with their parent through the main front door. Parents will walk students to Before School Care in the gym.
- School doors will open at 7:55 a.m. in the morning. When students arrive, they will enter through the west doors and walk to their classroom. Staff will supervise students as they enter. School begins at 8:15 a.m.
- Morning preschool doors open at 7:55 a.m. Students will enter through their preschool classroom doors. Parents may drive around to the south side of the school by the preschool classroom doors to drop off students. Preschool teachers will greet students as they arrive at their classroom doors.
- Students arriving after the 8:15 a.m. tardy bell will enter through the main doors and ring the doorbell on the north side. Mrs. Boone will unlock the main front door and parents must sign in students.

DISMISSAL

- Morning half-day preschool students will dismiss through their classroom door on the south side at 11:15 a.m. Parents will park in the pickup line on the playground and walk up to the classroom doors to pick up students. Then, when all students are loaded in the car line, cars may pull away.
- Full-day preschool students will dismiss at 2:55 p.m. daily unless they attend After School Care or prefer to be picked up with their older siblings at 3:00 p.m. dismissal.
- All K-8 students will dismiss at 3:00 p.m. daily unless they attend After School Care. Bus riders will be dismissed at the main front door when the QPS bus arrives between 3:00-3:10 PM.
- Parents, please pull into the west parking lot and form a line. As each family vehicle pulls up to the west side dismissal area, teachers will give students permission to load their family vehicle. Approximately four cars will be loaded at one time, then remaining in the line, all four cars will pull away. When the next four cars have pulled up and stopped, teachers will give permission to load their family vehicle.
- Parents may also park in the parking lot and walk up to the white fence on the north end of the dismissal area to pick up their child(ren) and teachers will give students permission to walk to the white fence to meet their parent. Parents, please do not park on the side of the road in front of school because we need to keep this lane open for bus pick up.
- Students attending After School Care will be dismissed through the northwest side door unless they are on the playground. Then, students will be dismissed on the west side of the playground by checking out with Mrs. Wellman. Parents will park and walk onto the playground or into the northwest side door to pick up children at the gym.

LUNCH AND RECESS

The school hot lunch program will be a paid lunch program. Hot lunch will be **\$3.50** this year. We will have three lunch and recess periods.

- Preschool full-day students eat in the cafeteria from 11:10-11:35 a.m. Recess will follow in preschool playground area.
- K – 4th -grade students have lunch from 11:40 – 12:05 and 5th – 8th - grade have lunch from 12:05 – 12:30.
- 5th – 8th -grade students have recess from 11:40 – 12:05 and K – 4th -grade have recess from 12:05 – 12:30.

PARENT NEWSLETTER AND WEEKLY ENVELOPES

Please read the weekly Parent Newsletter sent by email on Friday afternoon and check your child's weekly Friday brown envelope for important handouts. Each week, your K-8 child's brown envelope must be signed by a parent to confirm that you have seen the important handouts inside and it must be returned to school on Mondays.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Back To School Opportunities and First Days of School

Sunday, August 16 Back to School Bash

4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass in the School Gym with Blessing of the Backpacks

5:00-6:00 p.m. Families can drop off school supplies in classrooms and meet the teacher.

5:00-6:00 p.m. PTO Sponsored Cookout with support from the St. Anthony Men's and Women's Societies

Monday, August 17

8:30 – 2:30 a.m. All Staff Meeting

Tuesday, August 18

First Day of School for K-8 students with 11:30 a.m. Dismissal

Wednesday, August 19

First Full Day of School for K-8 students, Preschool 4-year-old three-day and five-day programs

8:30 a.m. School Mass

Thursday, August 20

First Full Day of School for Preschool 3-year-old two-day

Friday., August 21

School Spirit Shirt Day

8:15 a.m. Quiet School Mass for Grades 4-8

If I can be of service by providing a visit or tour of our school, or discussing your questions or concerns, please reach out to me by calling the school office at 217-224-0041 or by email to cfrericks@stdominicquincy.org. Thanks so much for the opportunity to provide a Catholic education for your child (ren) at St. Dominic School of St. Anthony of Padua Parish this school year. It is a privilege to serve in partnership with you as we help raise these amazing children of God.

Peace be with you,

Mrs. Carol Frericks, Principal

St. Dominic School of St. Anthony of Padua Parish

Where Holy Moments Happen Every Day

August School Office Hours

Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Attached to this Email:

Parent Newsletter for August 7, 2026

August Calendar

PTO Back to School Bash Flyer

2026-2027 School Calendar

Mass Attendance Cards: St. Anthony of Padua Church will be collecting Mass attendance family cards to determine tuition rates (participating or non-participating) for the 2027-28 school year. Cards will be collected from May 2026 through April 2027 to determine tuition rates for the 2027-28 school year.