

Partnering with Parents Family Culture, Virtue, and Character

Pope Pius XI stated that the school is, "by its very nature, an institution subsidiary and complementary to the family and to the Church."

At Saint Rita, our partnership with parents is foundational. From our earliest days, we have believed that true education begins at home—and that parents are the first and most important educators of their children. We are honored to walk alongside you in forming children who are academically strong, spiritually grounded, and growing in virtue.

As we affirm in our Philosophy: "We partner with our parents to develop the academic potential of our children and help them become the saints God made them to be." That formation includes more than academics—it's about shaping character, cultivating virtue, and nurturing a life rooted in faith. Also noted in our Philosophy, Saint Rita School is "a place where school parents actively participate in the education of their children". Throughout the year, our calendar is filled with seasonal events, fundraising efforts, service opportunities, and coffee with the principal, among many other activities—all intentionally infused with meaningful "nuggets" of personal and family formation.

We also offer special programs designed just for you, providing opportunities for spiritual enrichment and practical support as you grow in your role as a parent and faith leader within your family.

Resources provided by Saint Rita School:

- Women's Retreat & Workshop
- Fatherhood Conference
- Heaven in Your Home (monthly gatherings)
- First Steps Family Enrichment Course (<u>Learn more</u>)
- A monthly spiritual challenge, newsletter, and podcast

Real Presence Collective: The philosophy

In an effort to provide our students with a childhood free of personal, internet capable devices and social media accounts, St. Rita School invites its parents to come together to enable their children to become the well-adjusted, joyful, fully-alive men and women that God created them to be via **The Real Presence Collective**: An Incarnational Approach to Friendship, Families, and the Good Life. This pledge stems from our philosophy and offers a practical invitation to join us in cultivating a culture of presence. Hard copies will be included in your July packets, but you can also sign the pledge here if you're ready to join now.

SRS Parents' Book Club:

Starting with *The Anxious Generation this past school year* and continuing with *The Tech Exit: A Practical Guide to Freeing Kids and Teens from Smartphones* for the 2025-2026 school year, our parents are invited to participate in monthly book clubs with the PTO supporting the purchase of the books. Monthly gatherings are casual, encouraging, and parent-led, with the PTO generously supporting the purchase of books. All parents are welcome—we'd love to have you join the conversation!

Character Development

At Saint Rita School, "We encourage virtue, character, and habits of mind essential for growth." Character development is not an add-on—it's integrated into everything we do. Virtue formation is woven throughout our curriculum, daily routines, and school culture. The home is an extension of this formation. A strong family culture reinforces the habits that, over time, become virtues—preparing children for a life of holiness, happiness, and human flourishing. The school and home work together in the task of passing on the riches of a classical education through consistent and coherent actions.

Let's create an army of active, aligned parents that can be pillars of strength in nurturing and sustaining Christian traditions within our families and our school!