

Resource Support at Saint Rita School

Whenever a family seeks out a Saint Rita education, we hope to be able to welcome and support their children, including those with learning differences. Our teachers are very good at building relationships with each child and family and meeting the academic needs of each student entrusted to them. We are also blessed with the support of our Resource Department, whose role is discussed below. To make sure St. Rita is a great fit for your child, please review all of this information and discuss any questions or concerns with a member of our administration. We hope your family will thrive here!

Application Stage: Please note that any IEPs, 504 plans, or Student Assistance or Learning Plans from other schools must be submitted along with other application materials. Results of any psycho-educational testing must also be provided for our review. Our Resource team will assess any findings, as well as the means and level of support your child has received or been entitled to receive in the past to describe the level and type of support Saint Rita School would be able to provide. If the child is ultimately enrolled here, a St. Rita Student Assistance Plan (SAP) would be drawn up by our Resource team to delineate that support and any necessary accommodations or modifications. The resulting SAP is discussed with parents and teachers and reviewed/updated annually as needed.

Assessment: When your child shadows at Saint Rita, they will be given standard math and language arts assessments by our Resource team. These results, reviewed in conjunction with their transcripts and standardized tests they may have taken before, will help identify some of their strengths and areas for growth as compared to their grade level peers at Saint Rita. In some cases, a significant academic gap may mitigate against offering placement, or a more minor gap may be addressed by remedial work or outside tutoring support before placement is offered.

Probationary Placement: All of our new students are initially enrolled on a 30-day probationary status to make sure our school is a good fit for them. Parents would be contacted early and often if there are any indicators of an issue that goes beyond the typical adjustment experience. We partner with our parents to try to address these issues as much as possible. On rare occasions, we find that we are not able to provide the support a child needs and so must say goodbye.

Transition: Older students transferring in from other schools who have a different academic foundation sometimes experience a particular challenge in the area of cursive handwriting, Latin, and spelling. We have materials and workbooks we can provide or recommend to families to help their child brush up in these areas over the summer before school begins. Please be sure to ask about this if you suspect your child may face such a difficulty.

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Struggling: For new or returning students who begin to experience significant academic struggles, a strong partnership between parents and teachers, supported by our Resource team and administrators, can help identify the issue and turn it around. Parents of students in 3rd grade and up have ongoing access to our online gradebooks, PowerSchool, to assess their student's progress. Interims for all students are sent home in hard copy halfway through the trimester, and then report cards follow the close of the semester. Students should also be bringing home graded work regularly. Please reach out early and often if you have any concerns about your child's academic progress. We can provide tutoring, pull-outs or push-in support on a temporary basis to help struggling students catch up, as well as recommend support available outside of school. For chronic academic struggles, we may ask that parents have their child tested for learning differences that may require specialized support.

Testing: If psycho-educational testing is needed, one option is to consult your pediatrician or insurance company for a referral to providers who can test the child privately. This can be quite expensive, so another option is to pursue (free) psycho-educational testing through the local public school district. The threshold to trigger testing this way is high, and the process can move slowly, but our Resource team can help you navigate this process. The results of any testing can then be used to draw up a specialized Student Assistance Plan to help that student thrive here.

We are thrilled you are considering or have chosen Saint Rita for your family. Please contact us at any time with any questions or concerns.