



ASCENSION
CATHOLIC CHURCH

ASCENSION ASSEMBLY

EDUCATION COMMISSION



EDUCATION

How the Commissions Work Together



Engagement

When the Holy Spirit inspires people to connect to our mission, this team is ready to welcome them into our parish family.



Evangelization

After the invitation to join is accepted, these programs help reveal the truth, goodness, and beauty of our faith.



Faith Formation

Ongoing formation helps strengthen practicing Catholics and share spiritual heritage with newcomers.



Liturgical Life

Our spiritual hunger is satisfied in the Eucharist and through the gift of the Sacraments, made manifest in our Liturgical life.



Social Justice

Our relationship with Christ and confidence in truths of the Gospel deepens our faith, calling us to serve those in need.



Stewardship

With grateful and generous hearts, we give our first fruits back to God, and work to ensure that our mission can continue.



Education

We look to the future, forming the next generation into active, engaged Catholics ready to take ownership and live faithfully.



Starts over again!



EDUCATION

The Education Commission

Members of the Education Commission strengthen Ascension Parish's Catholic education programs.

Together, we:

- Advocate for our educational programs
- Consider the perspectives and concerns of other cultures and people with special pastoral needs.
- Collaborate with parish programs to foster interaction and outreach.

Ministries: Elementary School School Board, Parents' Association, Parish School of Religion, Ascension Early Childhood Center, Little Lambs, Totus Tuus, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Venturing





EDUCATION

The Education Commission Stats

- K-8 School:
 - 414 students
 - 31 teachers & aides
 - 5 additional support staff
 - Increased enrollment for 5 consecutive years
 - 100% of 8th grades tested above national average (Iowa)
 - 40% of 8th graders tested in the top 10% nationally (Iowa)
- Little School
 - 95 students enrolled - many in multiple classes (133 total spots available in 7 classes)
 - 1 opening at this time
 - 13 Little School Team Members
 - Classes are full with wait lists.
 - 90% of 2021-2022 students are attending Kindergarten in Catholic parish schools.





EDUCATION

The Education Commission Stats Cont.

- Ascension Catholic School Board
 - Our 2022–2023 School Board has 10 parent board members in addition to our Principal, Joe Kilmade and Father Molini.
- Ascension Catholic School Parents' Association
 - 242 current participants
- PSR
 - 389 Total PSR Participants
 - 55+ Volunteers





EMPOWER
THE LAITY

The Education Commission

While continuing to prepare and empower laity for leadership roles within the church, we need to build connections among all our members. We must work collaboratively to evangelize effectively.

- We are building a stronger connection between the parish and the school
 - The annual fundraising gala has now become a parish event in order to unify our communities.
- We are building a stronger connection between our school and PSR
 - The Christmas Pageant is a joint effort and all parish children, school students, and PSR students are collaborating together
- Parents Association would like to further strengthen the school community by proactively reaching out to individual parents to ensure all are welcome and invited to be involved.
- Ascension Catholic School Parents Association has leadership opportunities available for empowering parents to be involved





**FOSTER STRONGER
COMMUNITY**

The Education Commission

Next, we must consider new and accomplished ways to engage to a higher level all our members, especially those already on campus for other activities. Build the community by lifting up all in prayer and charity.

- To be better "Missionary Disciples," Invite and encourage Little School parents and their children to join other families at Mass and other opportunities to pray together.
- The K-8 school has chosen the hashtag #InviteGoodness for this year on social media in order to bring together our community and share the good things happening at the school.
- The K-8 school is focusing on parish engagement via service and participation (Food pantry, Liturgy, Service, Fair Ascension, etc..)





PROCLAIM THE
GOSPEL ACCESSIBLY

The Education Commission

Third, we will proclaim the Gospel message in an authentic manner that is accessible to all. Make the Gospel message personal and alive as you share the truth, goodness, and beauty of God with others.

- Explicit teaching of Catholic Catechism to all K-8 school students by the parish priests. Fr. Schumacher created easy-to-use guides for students by grade level in order to teach what is age-appropriate.
- The Little School is Inviting and encouraging Little School parents and their children to join other families at Mass and other opportunities to pray together.





ENSURE STRUCTURE
BENEFITS MISSION

The Education Commission

Finally, we must continue to ensure current structures are benefitting the mission. We must position our efforts in such a way all things work together for the good of all. We must engage that hard evaluation of each ministry's effectiveness. Each ministry should evaluate how their work directly enhances the larger community.

- Find available space to meet the needs of preschool families that need after school care.
- Making the gala a parish event benefits our mission of fostering stronger community.
- Opening up the Christmas pageant to all children benefits our mission of fostering stronger community.





Winterfest 2023

Learn more about our ministries and programs!

January 29, 2023 | MPR & Gym

Questions?

If you have any questions, you are welcome to ask



Thank You...