

## **ASCENSION CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

At Ascension School, we not only welcome volunteers from the community, we depend on them. With more than 300 eager learners in kindergarten through eighth grade, and a rigorous curriculum, volunteers play an important role in supporting our students. Opportunities to help range from listening to a first grader read aloud, helping eighth grade students prepare for the state standardized math test, to working on our buildings and grounds and in our school gardens (landscaping).

We offer numerous ways to engage with our students:

#### **Classroom Support**

Work one on one or in small group with students in the classroom.

Available hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 1:30p.m. on a scheduled basis with the classroom teacher.

**Reading Partners** This program pairs a volunteer with a student for a one hour per week reading session to improve reading and language skills. You will attend a short orientation session to learn a highly effective curriculum that guides your tutoring. If interested, more information is available. We are excited about this program as it has seen proven results in helping kids gain and/or improve on fundamental reading skills- a top goal toward closing the achievement gap!

#### **MCA Math Prep (\*Critical need)**

This essential one-on-one program pairs volunteers with eighth grade students to help prepare them for the Math MCAIII test. Volunteers need to have a basic knowledge of geometry and algebra, and the ability to work once a week with students from October until the test in the spring.

Hours: Thursdays from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

#### **After School Program**

Assist students with homework help, educational games and activities, small group reading, and special projects

Available hours: Monday-Friday 2-5pm.

#### **Middle-School Minis**

Do you have a special talent, area of expertise or experience that you can share with our middle-school students? Career exploration, college prep tips, cooking, entrepreneurship, sewing and leadership skills are examples of the topics we would love

to cover. Sharing your gifts with our students helps familiarize them with new ideas and opportunities. This could be a weekly series presentation up to six week period.

Available Hours: Monday through Friday, 3– 5 p.m.

### **Recess Supervision**

Monday through Friday, 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. or 11 to 11:20 a.m.

### **Library Support**

General assistance shelving books, check in /out process

Available Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

### **Occasional Opportunities**

Many people want to help our students succeed but aren't able to commit to a regular volunteer schedule. Throughout the year, volunteers are needed for one-time events such as field trips, gardening, health screening day, school picture day, and costume construction for early December Christmas Program. To be on an e-mail list for one time volunteer opportunities, please contact Margaret Conroy.

### ***S.L.A.M. (Super Language and Math Program)***

Our Super Summer Language and Math intensive runs the first six weeks of summer and is designed to enhance and nurture learning at all levels for our Academy Scholars. This program seeks volunteers for classroom support, lunch and recess supervision, field trip chaperones, after school activities leadership.

### **Requirements for all Volunteers**

#### **Essential 3**

The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis mandates that all individuals who are in contact with children and/or vulnerable adults through a school, parish, or archdiocesan institution meet three criteria. All ministries of the parish, including the school, are mandated to participate in the three criteria listed below.

- A successful Background Check: Church of the Ascension, through the archdiocese, has contracted with a very reputable agency that has been used for years by the archdiocesan schools, parishes, and institutions to conduct background checks for all employees and volunteers.
- Participation in a VIRTUS Training session: VIRTUS is a program that identifies best practices designed to help prevent wrongdoing and promote “right doing” within religious organizations for the safe environment protection of youth and vulnerable adults. The VIRTUS program is mandated by the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

- Volunteer Code of Conduct: Individuals who work or volunteer with children and/or vulnerable adults are required to sign the "Volunteer Code of Conduct." This code outlines what a volunteer will and will not do in their volunteer capacity.

This Essential 3 process is done online at [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org). If you have questions or need assistance in getting your VIRTUS pre-registration started, please contact *Alison Keller* at 763.760.3887.

### **Contact**

For more information about volunteer opportunities or to schedule a tour of Ascension School, please contact:

Margaret Conroy, Volunteer Manager, at 763.760.3928  
mconroy@ascensionmpls.org