

Ascension Home and School Association Room Parent Information

Room parents are a special group of volunteers that devote extra time and talent to provide fun activities for your children throughout the year. They also help the teachers with special projects and classroom duties. Home & School also sponsors several events throughout the school year and asks room parents for their assistance.

Below are some of the common questions asked about being a room parent:

1. How is a room parent selected?

Once the deadline occurs that's indicated on the volunteer forms (this year it is August 15th), the names of people who indicated that they want to be a room parent are entered on a list with their class request. After the names have been gathered, we put them on a chart by classroom to see which classes have too many room parent requests or if other people are needed.

We have tried very hard to work on a priority system for assigning room parents so that everyone has an opportunity to volunteer. The priority has been the following:

- A. Those that requested the previous year, but did not get to be a room parent.
- B. Those that have never been room parents in the past.
- C. Those that have been a room parent, but not for that child.
- D. Those that have been a room parent for the child they are requesting.

After all the room parents have been placed for a classroom, we will call everyone to let them know about the assignments. We will also call parents from classes that don't have enough room parents to ask about their interest in being a room parent.

2. Can you be a room parent if you aren't available during the day for each event?

You can still be a room parent, even if you aren't able to participate in every event during the school day. Room parents help coordinate the events before they occur and encourage participation of other parents in the class. Please know that you do not have to shoulder all the responsibility. You should ask for assistance from other parents in the class.

3. Are there funds available to help room parents with their activities?

Yes, Home & School provides a set amount of money per student for each class. Class money is distributed in two payments. The first payment is distributed in September and the remainder of the funds are provided in January. This money is to help with class parties and other events.

4. Can you be a room parent for a class other than your own child's room?

Yes, we have had room parents for classes that aren't the ones their children are assigned. Some parents indicated that they will help with other classes that don't have room parents available. Please indicate on the volunteer form if you would like to be a room parent for a specific child's class or for any class.

5. How do I indicate that I want to be a room parent?

Please mark Room Parent and list the child's name and teacher you wish to be a room parent for on the volunteer form. Return the form by August 15th. If you wish to be a room parent for a class other than your child's room, please list that on the form.

6. What are some of the responsibilities of a room parent?

Below are some of the activities and responsibilities of a room parent. Activities and participation will vary by teacher and it's recommended that room parents meet with their teacher(s) early in the school year to discuss responsibilities. Some teachers require different participation than others.

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Room Parent Information (cont'd)

Class Room Activities

Coordinate holiday parties and ease the teacher's burden by providing activities, crafts, snacks, etc. Typical activities revolve around Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, the end of the school year and field trips.

Encourage parent participation both in and outside of class, i.e. classroom volunteers, contribution of snacks, supplies, craft ideas, etc.

Please note that **7th grade room parents** are responsible for coordinating the 8th grade dinner.

When: Check with the teacher for party dates and field trips. Other activities are at the discretion of the teacher.

Teacher Appreciation

Facilitate and organize gestures of appreciation. Bonus and gift certificates are most appreciated.

When: Typically Christmas and year-end

Home and School Activities

Pizza lunches

Provide parent volunteers and ensure activities for students during pizza lunches.

When: One day in November and February (usually a Friday)

Buddy Bowling

Help enlist volunteers to attend this fun field trip.

When: During Catholic School Week. Usually is scheduled in late January or early February.

End of Year Activities

School Picnic 1st-8th grade only

Help enlist parent volunteers to run the games. Walk children to and from the park. Home & School also helps get volunteers for this event.

When: A Friday in May.

Room Clean-Up

Enlist volunteers to aid in clean-up efforts and assist teachers with room pack-up. Some teachers ask for help in cleaning all the toys in the classroom at the end of the year.

When: Last 2 weeks of school