



Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

The St. Giles School parent teacher organization (PTO) gives parents and teachers the opportunity to work together to supplement and enrich the educational experience. The mission of the St. Giles School PTO is to support the principal, staff and administration of the school through community building, enriching experiences and funding for curriculum and faculty enhancements.

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**I thank God for our amazing St. Giles Community!
As a teacher, I feel so blessed to be supported by
such amazing parents and as a St Giles parent,
I feel such gratitude that my children are fortunate
enough to grow in faith, knowledge and friendship
in this community like no other!**

St. Giles Teacher and Parent

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

The PTO is comprised of a variety of active and engaged committees that benefit and enrich the experiences of students and teachers. Through our collective efforts we grow and strengthen our community!

Room Parents

Room Parents work closely with the teachers to plan, run, and solicit volunteers for various classroom parties, year-end picnics and other needs of the classroom.

Fun Lunch

The Fun Lunch committee organizes special student lunches to be delivered from local restaurants. Volunteers for this PTO fundraiser help select meals, purchase food, organize volunteers, and distribute orders during the school lunch period.

Book Fair

Volunteers in this committee coordinate with Andersen's Bookfair Company to organize our school book fair. The book fair is held in conjunction with the parent-teacher conferences in October. The Book Fair committee works hard to present new, diverse and educational literature choices to St. Giles students.

Teacher Hospitality

Teacher Hospitality is an important way St. Giles parents show their support for our teachers and administration. During busy times of the school year, volunteers organize and provide special lunches, snacks and other treats to show appreciation.

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Community Outreach

St. Giles volunteers organize events, in conjunction with local businesses, to support locally-owned organizations and grow a sense of community.

Faith and Family

The Faith and Family committee works to foster participation of students, parents, and teachers in the parish's spiritual services and events, such as Great Grade Masses, Faith On The Go, and other service opportunities.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is committed to bringing relevant and innovative diversity programming to St. Giles School.

Wellness

This committee recognizes and fosters the relationship between good nutrition, physical activity, and positive educational outcomes among our students. Volunteers help with the Outdoor Classroom, monthly smoothies, nutritious snacks at Lion's Leap, yoga enrichment, Zero Waste recycling initiative, and the Spring Plant Sale.

Variety Show

The Variety Show is an annual talent show at St. Giles run by parent volunteers. Volunteers assist with auditions, rehearsals, and the production of the show.

Uniform Resale

This committee gathers donations of used uniforms and spirit wear and arranges opportunities for returning and new St. Giles families to purchase the clothes at a discounted price. Sales are a PTO fundraiser and community outreach.



Playground,
two blocks of
green space,
and WiFi-enabled
outdoor
classroom

Birthday Book Club

Birthday Book Club is a way to celebrate student birthdays while building our school library. For a small donation, students are invited during their birthday month to participate in a special pizza party during which they can select a new book to be presented to the school library.

Miles for Giles

This committee organizes a virtual 3-mile Fun Run for the whole family. Families are encouraged to train as a family or in groups and post pictures of their runs on social media. This event provides a fun and healthy way for families to get outside and be together.

Bowling

The bowling committee organizes a bowling league that is run through Circle Lanes in Forest Park. This is a fun opportunity for parents to mingle with each other and improve their bowling skills!

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Contributions of The PTO

Through various fundraising efforts, the PTO has been able to provide the school with enhancements that better our students and support our teachers! Most recently, the PTO has provided:

- Flexible seating for outdoor classroom
- Faculty and staff bonus to show our gratitude
- New water fountains with bottle fillers
- Outdoor classroom and school garden
- Significant donation to new primary playground
- Funding for library needs and teacher wish lists to keep individual class libraries up to date

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Laura Milder, Co-President

Laura is the mother of three St. Giles Lions. Laura has been part of the Giles community for 11 years and an active member of the PTO since her boys began preschool. Laura met her husband John at Loyola University in Chicago where they fostered their interest in service and social justice. Their careers have taken them to the west coast and back, until finally settling in Oak Park when their youngest son was born. Laura's career began in non profit. She was later drawn to the floral industry where she owned and operated a boutique events company. Her move to California led to her role in product design and development for a national e-commerce flower company in San Diego. She now channels her creativity into her family and community. Laura is passionate about music, literature and healthy cooking and is always excited when those interests intersect with PTO events and programs.

Julia Bell, Co-President

Julia is the proud mom of two current students and one who graduated from St Giles in 2018 and is now a senior at St. Ignatius. Her family moved to Elmwood Avenue in Oak Park in the 1960's and have been members of the parish ever since. She graduated from St. Giles and Trinity High School and worked as a teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Chicago Public Schools for many years. Now Julia works part-time for West Suburban Special Recreation Association as a grant writer. In her spare time she should be decluttering all the closets, but instead she is likely to be listening to podcasts, audio-books or music while walking her dog. She and her husband Jeff live in Elmwood Park.

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**Joanne Biemer,
Co-Treasurer**

Joanne is the mom of two current St. Giles students and one alum who is now a Sophomore at Fenwick. Joanne works as an Associate Managing Director with Chicago-based Axiom Consulting. But, as she works from home, you can find her most days in the Biemers' house next to the school playground with their dog Daisy. Joanne met her husband John while they were both working at CNN in Atlanta. After Atlanta, they spent time in Washington D.C, Baltimore, Des Moines and Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina). They moved to Oak Park in 2010 and have been part of the St. Giles community ever since.

**Emily Spreng,
Co-Treasurer**

Emily has a daughter in fourth grade and son in first grade at St. Giles and has been a part of the community since 2017. She grew up in Oak Park, and now lives in Galewood. After meeting her husband Mike at OPRF, Emily graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She works as a bilingual Investigations Supervisor at the Illinois Department of Human Rights, an agency which investigates charges of discrimination in employment and housing.

**Kristen Reale,
President Emeritus**

Kristen is the mother of two St. Giles students and one graduate who is a freshman at Fenwick. Kristen met her husband, John, while she was pursuing her masters degree in public policy at IU and he was in law school. They have lived in Oak Park for 12 years. Kristen's professional background is in nonprofit fundraising and management, having worked for Easter Seals national headquarters as the Director of Annual Giving. Before Easter Seals, she worked for the American Lung Association and the Indiana University Foundation in fund development. Locally, she has served on the board of the Women's Guild and Sarah's Inn. She is proud to be a part of St. Giles and is happy to support the efforts of our wonderful teachers and staff.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

St. Giles School exists to foster the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical growth of our elementary school children.

We are committed to a quality education that prepares our students to be people of faith, to be lifelong learners, and to serve the broader community.

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Call. Email. Visit.

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ST. GILES SCHOOL

A WINDOW TO EXCELLENCE SINCE 1928