



Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

ST. GILES SCHOOL

1034 Linden Ave, Oak Park, IL 60302

708.383.6279

stgilesschool.org

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

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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 field day 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.

Trivia Night

The Trivia Night Committee organizes the annual St. Giles trivia night in November by selling tickets, coordinating with the emcee, and decorating McDonough Hall.

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

Library

Library volunteers assist the librarian with upkeep, organization, and the electronic library system for 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 the school and individual class libraries up to date

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Rebecca Mongiat, Co-President

Rebecca is the mother of two St. Giles Lions. She has been part of the St. Giles community for 10 years and an active member of the PTO for the past eight years leading book fairs, volunteering as a room parent, helping with the plant sale and running the PTO web site. Rebecca and her husband hail from the Mitten state where they met at Michigan State University. They have lived in the Galewood/Oak Park area since 2008 and have been parishoners at St. Giles since that time.

Since graduation she has been involved in data and analytics - first conducting research in Brazil on deforestation and then as a 20-year veteran in the health insurance industry leading advanced analytics teams who are helping to improve access to healthcare, improve health outcomes and lower the cost of health insurance. In her spare time she is busy coaching Falcons Softball, watching a soccer game or creating a crafty mess with her kids.

Jennifer Wuest, Co-President

Jen is the mom of three St. Giles Lions. Jen and her husband moved to Oak Park in 2018 from California and became parish members of St. Giles Church. In 2020 Jen and her husband moved their children from public school to St. Giles School and feels it was one of the best decisions they've ever made! Since joining the school, Jen has been active in the PTO. Jen and her husband also brought the beloved Rocket Day event to St. Giles School; a tradition they experienced while their kids attended school in California. You can also find Jen as a substitute teacher at St. Giles.

Jen has been a stay at home mom for 11 years. Prior to being a stay at home mom, Jen graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a Master's in Social Work and worked as a hospital social worker. In her free time Jen enjoys reading, listening to podcasts, walking her dogs, and working out. Jen loves St. Giles for so many reasons but especially the opportunities it provides to grow in one's faith, provide service to the larger community, and the tight knit group of parents and kids.

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Maura Conway, Co-Treasurer

Maura Conway is the mom of three St. Giles students and has been a member of the St. Giles community as a parishioner most of her life. Maura grew up in Oak Park and was confirmed at St. Giles. After graduating from OPRFHS, Maura attended the University of Notre Dame for undergrad and then Georgetown University for graduate school which brought her to Washington, DC, where she met her husband, Peter Fotos. Maura and Peter were married at St. Giles Church in 2009. When not participating in St. Giles activities, Maura is a partner at Chartis, a healthcare consulting firm, where she specializes in financial performance improvement consulting.

Janna Dettmer, Co-Treasurer

Janna is the mom of two Lions, a son in fourth grade and a daughter in first. Janna met her husband while both were serving as Peace Corps volunteers in Romania. They crisscrossed the country for many years before settling in Chicago, which checked critical boxes: major city, on the water, and close enough to Janna's childhood home in Northern Michigan. The Amaro's started St. Giles in 2021 and moved to Oak Park shortly after. Janna is Conflicts Counsel at Jenner & Block and both she and her husband are grateful every day for St. Giles and its wonderful and supportive community.

Julia Harmon Bell, President Emeritus

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.

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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A WINDOW TO EXCELLENCE SINCE 1928