

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH

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November 5, 2009

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you about your child and the EDGE program. As you may have recently heard, our parish has made an important change in our religious education requirements. The St. Andrew parish ministerial and education staff have agreed to enforce the recommendation that ALL children must have some form of formal catechism at least one year immediately prior to all sacramental preparation programs, which includes students of middle school age. This means I am now responsible for ensuring your child receives an adequate religious education PRIOR to preparation for Confirmation.

In order to ensure that your child is meeting the requirements established and receiving the catechetical material presented, we feel obligated to implement an attendance policy for EDGE. Attendance is taken each week at EDGE, as it has been since the program's inception in 2003, but will now be monitored more closely.

In order for your child to meet the qualifications of "formal catechism" through the EDGE program, we recommend that they not miss more than 1/4 of the classes offered. EDGE offers approximately twenty instructional sessions a year, so therefore, to meet the requirement, your child **must not miss more than 5 of the sessions**. We understand that scheduling conflicts occur and special circumstances exist preventing your child from attending every session, and would be willing to work with you to ensure that they receive an adequate religious education.

If your child is unable to meet the program requirements, please contact me. We may be able to prescribe supplemental or alternative catechetical tools or programs to ensure your child is exposed to the information required by the Diocese for students of this age.

Our goal is to ensure that all of our youth are adequately educated about their faith. Please know this policy is not meant to "force" your child to come to EDGE, but to ensure that we are adequately educating them in their faith and able to assess their knowledge before they start their next sacramental program.

I also firmly believe that religious education is **critical** during this middle school age and commend you on your commitment to your child's faith formation by enrolling them in our religious education programs. This is not just about getting them confirmed, but to aid them in a life-long commitment to, and understanding of, their Catholic faith as they go through these crucial pre-teen and teen years.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. May God bless you and your family as you grow and practice your faith together.

In Christ,

Nancy C. Carter

Nancy C. Carter
CYM

CC: Fr. William J. Stevenson, Pastor

THE EDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

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