

## BUDDY FAMILY GUIDE

### Role of Buddy Families

Buddy Families serve as partners of the School helping new students and their families integrate into the St. John community. The Buddy Family reaches out to the new family and provides them with support, resources, social opportunities, and familiar faces to help foster a connection to the school.

Additionally, the Buddy Family assists new families in understanding the significance of school events and participation throughout the year.

### Top Four Reasons to Become a Buddy Family

1. Meet and develop relationships with new families.
2. Provide new families with an additional resource for finding information, and support and a sense of belonging in our community.
3. Enjoy social and informational events that will assist the new family in assimilating into the school community.
4. Contribute to the enhancement of a strong school community.

### Buddy Family Selection and Matching

Parents who are interested in participating in the Buddy Family Program should contact the Admission Office. The St John Welcome Committee will orient interested families in the program.

Once new families have been enrolled in the school, the Admission Director/Welcome Committee will pair each new family with a Buddy Family, with attention to commonalities such as gender and age of children.

### What do I have to do?

- Contact your new family to introduce yourself. Provide your contact information. Let them know what capacity you are available to support them.
- Attend the kick-off event for the 2020-2021 Buddy Program or Back to School BBQ (TBD)
- Attend, plan and/or host at least one Buddy Family event.
- Keep your new family informed of upcoming school events that you think would interest them.
- Know where to find resources to answer questions. Familiarize yourself with the school website and consistently read NewsViews each week.

### How much do I need to know about St. John?

You should familiarize yourself with the Family Handbook and keep informed about the school's events through the website, NewsViews, and school calendar. This will provide you with the knowledge base to support you in your role.

The most important factor is you know where to find the information that is needed, not necessarily to provide answers yourself.

The Admission Office is always available as a resource to you should complex questions or Buddy Family requests arise. Contact Jenna Skokan at [jskokan@st-johnschool.org](mailto:jskokan@st-johnschool.org) if you need any help!

Most importantly, have fun, make friends and share in the fun of welcoming our newest community members!