

## MIDDLE SCHOOL BALL ACADEMY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Does my child have to attend St. Thomas to participate in the middle school ball academy?**

Yes, to participate in the academy, students will need to enroll at St. Thomas. The middle school ball academy is a program of choice within Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

### **We are new to Catholic Schools, what differences will my child notice?**

- We expect all students to participate in the Faith life of our school - morning prayer, Religious Studies class, in school Masses and celebrations.
- Our Catholic faith is permeated into everything that we do on a daily basis at STA.

### **Will bussing for my child be provided if I am not in the St. Thomas catchment area?**

- Given this is a program of choice, we will work to continue to provide bussing for out of catchment students within the City of Red Deer Schools Boundaries (this would include rural students bussed into Red Deer Schools).
- No transportation will be provided for students who live outside of Red Deer Schools Boundaries (Eg. Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Innisfail).
- Transportation fees for bussing will be determined based on the school of choice guidelines as outlined on our transportation webpage. <https://rdcrs.ca/schools/school-bus-information>

### **How many hours per week does an academy student spend training?**

- Sport specific training will take place two times per week.
- Middle school students will be taught and assessed by the St. Joseph's Ball Academy staff.
- Students will participate in the Ball Academy as a year long course.
- Depending on enrollment numbers, students may participate in the academy during either their physical education or option classes.

### **What facility do the students access for their training?**

Students will access the St. Joseph High School Field House which will include the use of all ball specific equipment (drop down batting cages, pitching machines, fitness equipment etc.)

### **How will students get to St. Joseph's?**

- Students will be picked up at STA and transported, by school bus, to the Academy by Ball Academy staff.
- Students will be transported to St. Joseph High School over the lunch hour to maximize the instructional time that they will experience.

### **What is the cost of the program?**

- Academy Cost is \$750.00 / year
  - \$200 due at time of acceptance
  - \$275 due September 1
  - \$275 due October 1
  - *\*If your child lives outside of our school catchment area, an additional \$300 bussing fee may apply. \*This bussing fee is subject to change as per RDCRS Guidelines.\**

### **How do I enroll?**

- Please fill out the middle school ball academy intent form that can be found at [www.staschool.ca](http://www.staschool.ca)
- If your child is not currently enrolled with Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, you will need to complete a student registration form. Click on the following link to access the registration form: <https://www.staschool.ca/registration>
- Your child will be accepted into the program and into the school once the \$200 dollar deposit is paid and the school registration process is complete. Please contact St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School to make this payment or if you have any questions.