

# 40 Ideas for Parish - School Collaboration

1. Invite pastors to help greet families at drop-off or pick-up on the first day of school (or other days!).
2. Create a shared calendar that includes both school and parish events and distribute them to both communities.
3. Invite the pastor to faculty meetings and invite the school leader to parish meetings.
4. Regularly include Mass times in the school newsletter.
5. Invite school students and families to SOR events and activities.
6. Create a vocation day / class / week and invite parishioners and families to join (both religious and lay).
7. Include clear links to both the school and parish on each other's websites.
8. Personally invite teachers and staff to join in parish retreats, prayer services, Adoration, etc.
9. Principal: If your school's parish is not your personal home parish, make plans to attend Mass there at least 1 time per month.
10. Include SOR and DREs in National Catholic Schools Week and Teacher Appreciation Week.
11. Plan collaborative celebrations with SOR for students receiving their first Sacraments.
12. Pastor: Make plans to visit the school regularly (e.g. Drop-in Fridays, recess, lunch, Q&A with students).
13. Host "Mom's Day Out" or "Parent Date Night" events for all parents in the parish and school.
14. Invite SOR families, especially homeschool families, to participate in a student-led school Mass.
15. Have a monthly Sunday Mass led by youth from the parish and school.
16. Create a shared parish and school community garden or prayer garden.
17. Send cards to celebrate key moments in parishioners' faith journeys (e.g. marriage, baptism, Holy Communion)
18. Reach out to families to encourage participation at Mass as greeters, ushers, readers, etc.
19. Offer to rearrange classroom furniture for the DRE in preparation for SOR class.
20. Offer homeschooling parish families opportunities to join in school electives, specials, and after-school programs.
21. Regularly include information about the school in the parish bulletin.
22. Invite SOR and youth groups to after-hour school events and activities.
23. Create a monthly school newsletter that school families and non-school families can subscribe to for highlights and upcoming events.
24. Invite parish families to enroll in summer programs
25. Include a parishioner representative on a school committee, as well as a school rep on a parish committee.
26. Invite school groups (PTO, BOT, Committees, etc.) to meet with parish groups (Knights of Columbus, etc.).
27. Invite parishioners to school Masses.
28. Host a grounds cleanup day to include the school and parish families.
29. Recruit parishioners for volunteer opportunities at the school as well as opportunities for students to volunteer with the parish.
30. Share school rosters and SOR rosters with one another for the purpose of invitations.
31. Create a pen pal or prayer buddy program between the school students, SOR students, and elderly parishioners.
32. Conduct combined research projects (e.g. community feedback, focus groups, surveys).
33. Host summer playgroups on the playground, inviting all parish families and school families. Have name tags!
34. Host an Open House where both the school and parish are accessible and personnel is present for questions.
35. Find ways to share personnel, such as marketing managers, family advocates, and sacrament coordinators.
36. Establish a student choir group that practices during the week and then sings at Sunday Mass.
37. Like, share, and promote each other's social media content regularly..
38. Have school students write notes to SOR students and leave them on classroom desks.
39. Host combined events, to include celebrations, family nights, and fundraisers.
40. Invite DREs to School of Faith professional development at the school.