



Yes, Virginia! There *IS* a Santa Secret Shop This Year!

New to Saint Andrew? Here's the scoop on Santa's Secret Shop.

Santa's Secret Shop is a time-honored tradition at St. Andrew. For a week during December, the Marian Room is transformed into a child-friendly gift shop, where students are free to roam the aisles and touch the merchandise to their heart's content. Most gifts are priced under \$10, and many are personalized for Mom, Dad, favorite aunts, siblings, and other special people. There's something for everyone from a newborn to grandpa, and for our favorite fluffy friends as well.

Our youngest children discover the joy of giving to others. Students in the early grades learn to budget and use their addition and subtraction skills to tally their purchases before paying. Parents work the sales floor, the cash registers, and the wrapping station. Our "upperclassmen" help some of our littlest children to shop but also continue to enjoy the shopping experience themselves.

The crowds! The chaos! The carols! It's fun and festive, but unfortunately everything that made this experience extraordinary makes it inadvisable during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But we have a Plan B!

Fun Services, the company that provides the merchandise for Santa's Secret Shop, is offering a virtual option. Your children can shop from the comfort of home and pay for gifts on the virtual site. Gifts will be delivered directly to your home, complete with special gift bags so that your child may wrap his or her selections. Shipping is \$5 with a minimum order of \$10. Shipping is free for orders totaling \$35 or more.

Keeping up a tradition while keeping safe.

Rather than fretting over what's been cancelled, let's show our children what it means to be resilient and innovative. Best of all, by giving to others, we also give back to our beloved school: St. Andrew will receive 10% cash back for each order. The Virtual Shop will be open from November 16 through December 7. Look for a link soon!

From the Santa Secret Shop Team,

Rosanne Cowen
Mary Beth Palestini
Jen Palancia Shipp