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## New St. Agnes playground dedicated to peace

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**The State Journal-Register**

Posted Dec 19, 2012 @ 10:00 PM

Last update Dec 20, 2012 @ 06:51 AM

<http://www.sj-r.com/top-stories/x1783185909/New-St-Agnes-playground-dedicated-to-peace?img=2>

**St. Agnes School** has dedicated a new playground built to highlight the need for peace.

The PeaceBuilders Place Playground, significantly larger than the last school play area, was officially unveiled Wednesday, after two years of construction.

“In the last week, we have been reminded more than ever how our schools should be safe and peaceful places to send our children,” said Nancy Peterson, development director for both the school and St. Agnes Parish. “Giving our children the tools to work together is part of the process to make their learning environments safe and full of peace.”

The playground was created in an effort to take the school’s anti-bullying stance a step further, Peterson said, by incorporating peaceful principles in the areas where students play. A memorial walkway also was built, with bricks sponsored by parishioners and parents.

St. Agnes School was the first school in the area to adopt the national **PeaceBuilders** curriculum, which is a “science-based, research-validated violence prevention curriculum and professional development program.”

“We just felt it was important to continue that message and thought that a great way to incorporate and continue that message was through the playground,” Peterson said.

St. Agnes School has 413 students in preschool through eighth grade.

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St. Agnes School students hold up their hands as they give the PeaceBuilders Pledge during the dedication of the new PeaceBuilders Place playground at the school Wednesday. .



[Justin L. Fowler/The State Journal-Register](#)  
The Reverend Bob Jallas performs the blessing for the new PeaceBuilders Place playground during its dedication Wednesday.



Justin L. Fowler/The State Journal-Register

The new PeaceBuilders Place playground at St. Agnes School carries over the school's participation in violence prevention, character building and anti-bullying.