

Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools

4. Committed to Educate the Whole Child

Catholic school education is rooted in the conviction that human beings have a transcendent destiny, and that education for the whole person must form the spiritual, intellectual, physical, psychological, social, moral, aesthetic and religious capacities of each child. Catholic schools should develop and implement academic, co-curricular, faith-formation, and service/ministry programs to educate the whole child in all these dimensions (The Catholic School, 29).

Narrative Summary

The Vatican Curia states that Catholic schools are part of the saving mission of the Church, especially for education in the faith remembering that the Gospel of Christ takes root in the minds and lives of the children we teach. Therefore, it is of great importance to educate the whole child – spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and morally.

St. George Catholic School strives to meet and address the God-given needs and talents of all of the students. St. George Catholic School is committed to the spiritual and moral formation of its students. The teachings and traditions of the Catholic faith are interwoven into instruction, environment, and daily living for students and faculty alike. Prayer and religious instruction through daily religion class by certified catechists are an integral part of the daily routine. Masses, Feast days, Religious celebrations and the Sacraments are celebrated. Students participating in the sacrament of Confirmation return to St. George and celebrate this momentous occasion as part of large faith community. As one of the maxims of the Sisters of St. Joseph states, our faith is woven into all that we do, say and think and brings us together as Catholic Christians. Students who are healthy and happy perform better in school. St. George complies with all state and federal health regulations and employs a full time nurse to monitor student health issues. St. George also employs a fulltime guidance counselor who addresses the American Association of School Counselor's standards by teaching guidance lessons weekly. The school counselor also ministers to students' emotional and educational needs by tracking students with special needs and helping teachers develop plans for accommodations. The guidance counselor assists students with social issues students may have.

St. George also has a full time disciplinarian who works with students in a loving, firm, age appropriate manner. The disciplinarian is also instrumental in assisting teachers with the creation of classroom discipline plans and a school wide discipline plan that lead students to make wise choices.

St. George Catholic School has a very active, vigilant crisis committee. The role of the committee is to review, assess, and address school safety issues by establishing a schedule of drills, enhancing methods for effective communication, and developing plans to maintain a safe physical plant and security plan.

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The physical plant is also handicap accessible to students who may have special access needs and complies with Brumfield vs. Dodd legislation. It is important to address students' social needs. With technology isolating children more and more, it has become even more important to provide social outlets for students.

Under the direction of an Athletic Director with the help of many volunteers St. George offers a robust athletics program. St. George also provides many extra and co-curricular opportunities such as BETA, Scouts, Math Club, drama, bells, choir, band and strings. According to the AdvancEd Defining Characteristics Survey of April 2013, ninety-three percent of St. George Catholic School stakeholders and students agree that the school provides many social outlets for students.

Academic rigor is one of the hallmarks of Catholic education and St. George is dedicated to providing rigor throughout instruction. According to the AdvancEd Defining Characteristics Survey of April 2013 an average of 86% of St. George Catholic School stakeholders and students agree that St. George Catholic School is a school of excellence. Collectively, St. George Catholic School students perform in the top 25 percent of students in the nation as is evidenced by our standardized test scores. Under the supervision and instruction of the certified teaching staff, students are engaged, challenged, and successful. All St. George Catholic School students graduate and attend schools of their choice and many St. George Catholic School alumni are academic leaders in their respective high schools.

St. George Catholic School provides an arts education program that includes performing arts, art instruction media arts, band, string, and choir. In addition St. George Catholic School offers enrichment opportunities in French and Spanish, study skills, robotics, language arts, and forensics.

Examples

- Daily religion classes
- Retreats
- Guidance lessons
- Disciplinarian
- Rigorous academics
- Accelerated classes
- INC
- Activity classes
- Religion integrated across the curriculum
- Choir
- Bells
- Altar Servers
- Buddies
- Food service
- Athletics
- Resource
- Band

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- May Crowning
- Lenten prayer
- Advent assemblies
- Math Club
- Intramural athletics

Direction

Increase Catholicity in our environment and across the curriculum, using Atlas curriculum maps as a gage. Work with the guidance counselor and administrative team to provide more comprehensive services for students with special needs. Consider including teachers on the ISNC committee who would help determine the scope of services St. George Catholic School can provide. Continue to provide opportunities for professional development pertaining to students with special needs and accommodations.