

Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools

8. Accessible to All Students

By reason of their evangelizing mission, Catholic schools should be available to all people who desire a Catholic school education for their children (Gravissimum Educationis, 6; Code of Canon Law, Canons 793 #2; Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium, Introduction). Catholic schools in concert with the Catholic community should do everything in their power to manage available resources and seek innovative options to ensure that Catholic school education is geographically, programmatically, physically, and financially accessible.

Narrative Summary

According to the Declaration Christian Education, Gravissimum Educationis all Christians are called to be children of God, they have a right to a Christian education. St. George Catholic School strives to provide an educational environment that is programmatically, physically and financially accessible to students who desire a Catholic education.

St. George Catholic School was established in 1960 in south Baton Rouge as a ministry of St. George Catholic Church. Located on a 60 acre tree-filled campus, St. George Catholic School meets ADA accessibility standards and does not discriminate against students applying because of race, sex, or ethnic origin. This is clearly stated in all school publications.

St. George Catholic School and Parish have grown tremendously since its beginning and will soon have the honor of building a new church. The new church will seat 1400 members.

Information about St. George can be found via the comprehensive website, www.st-georgeschool.com or FaceBook. New this year, all enrollment processes took place online, providing parents the opportunity to register from the comfort of their home. The academic program of St. George Catholic School is rigorous and engaging and designed to prepare students for the 21st Century. Through a collaborative process between parents, teachers, administration, guidance counselor and students, The Individual Student Needs Committee (INSC), works with students who have learning exceptionalities or disabilities. Various means of accommodations and strategies are used to assist these children. In recent years, reading and math specialists have been hired to work with classroom teachers in an effort to offer smaller group instruction. According the April 2013 AdvancEd Defining Characteristic survey, approximately 95% of stakeholders agree that St. George Catholic School educates the whole child which means the curriculum meets their individual needs.

St. George Catholic School is sensitive to working parents. Before and after school care

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is offered to students allowing parents to drop off early before school opens and pick up after their work day ends. Over 300 students participate in this program. Before and after care also offers enrichment activities such as art, study hall and computer lab. St. George Catholic School also offers an athletic study hall for its student athletes. Athletic study hall allows for students to remain at school and get their homework completed before practice begins.

It is truly the desire of St. George School and Parish administration to provide accessibility for all students desiring a Catholic education. The St. George Catholic School Finance Committee in cooperation with the principal and pastor are charged with keeping tuition as affordable as possible. Currently, tuition income accounts for 95% of the budget as opposed to 100%. St. George Catholic Church Parish offers a healthy tuition assistance program for families who demonstrate financial need and families have the option of financing their tuition over 10 months.

Examples

- Handicap accessible
- Financial assistance
- Statement of availability
- Free/Reduced lunch
- School budget
- Before/After care
- Online enrollment
- Tuition financing

Direction

St. George Catholic School has long range plans to increase the service capacity for students and families with financial needs, learning exceptionalities and those who have students who have identified special needs. The long range development plan is considering allocating space that will allow St. George Catholic School to help more students with learning exceptionalities. St. George Catholic School would like to see an increase in the level of financial assistance and will explore the creation of a tuition fund.