



**Cathedral School**  
St. Jude the Apostle

## **Frequently Asked Questions About the Cathedral School of St. Jude**

### ***What is the focus and mission of our school?***

The focus and mission of our school is to provide an excellent spiritual and academic formation for each child, as they grow in holiness and intellect following the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church. Jesus Christ is the ever present teacher and the model and inspiration of our faculty, students, and families. This creates a school family with a shared culture and expectations to educate the whole child: spiritually, academically, physically, and emotionally. Our students learn to use their gifts in service to others through classroom missions, service projects, and active service to community charitable organizations.

### ***How are parents involved and what expectations do we have for parents?***

Children thrive under a cooperative partnership from parents and teachers. We acknowledge and respect the parent's insight as they actively live out their role as the primary educators of their children. We seek to form a relationship that will lead to parents becoming life-long members of our school family. All parents are required to attend two Parent Association meetings and perform Faith Hours of service to the school community. Parents are always welcome in the classroom as volunteers.

### ***What curriculum standards do we follow?***

We utilize the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools as well as the State of Florida Learning Standards. There is great flexibility in curricular choices. We have standard textbooks that are used as one source of information.

### ***Is technology available and utilized in instruction and assessment?***

Students and teachers have Smart Boards, Microsoft Surface 3 laptops, and student computers in the classroom that provide opportunities to utilize a variety of instructional approaches and curricular materials to meet the various students' learning needs.

***What does instruction look like in a typical classroom and how do you meet the needs of various learning styles?***

We seek to meet the needs of today's learners by utilizing an instructional design process that gives teachers and students creative opportunities. This allows us to utilize curriculum choices that will provide our students the greatest opportunity to learn; while mastering, demonstrating, and retaining requirements of the educational standards.

***How are student learning and progress measured and assessed?***

We administer three curriculum based measurements using the Scholastic Reading Inventory. This allows us to measure students' progress and growth. We also administer the IOWA Tests each spring. We use these scores as one data point to measure student growth, curriculum effectiveness, and instructional effectiveness.

***Are students provided opportunities for physical activity, free play, and organized athletics?***

We have PE for Kindergarten twice a week and for 1st-8th grade three times a week. All grade levels have recess each day for 25-30 minutes. Recess options include our newly constructed and shaded playground, access to sports equipment, and an open field that allows students to stretch their legs and expend energy before returning to the classroom. We also have a well-developed athletic program including girls' volleyball, girl's/boys' basketball, soccer, track, tennis, boy's baseball, and boy's flag football.

***Do you support students with learning challenges and needs?***

We have a full time Resource Teachers that works with students, families, and faculty to provide curriculum and instruction based on the needs of the individual child. Students with qualifying IEPs and 504 plans receive a Student Learning Plan.

***Do you offer accelerated curriculum or special courses?***

All classes receive instruction in Spanish, Art, Music, Technology, and religion. We also offer Accelerated Math and Language Arts/Literature in 7th and 8th grade.

***Do you offer academic based extracurricular activities?***

We have many excellent extra-curricular offerings. They include National Junior Honor Society, Student Council, Chess Club, Battle of the Books, Newspaper Club, Math Team, Blue Crew School Spirit Organization, Science Club, Odyssey of the Mind, and Mad Science. Fourth graders visit St. Augustine and 7th graders go to Sea Camp. In addition, our middle school students attend Enterprise Village and Financial Park each spring.

***Do you offer scholarships and grants?***

We have a multitude of scholarship and financial aid opportunities. They include Diocesan Tuition Grants, Step-up for Students, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK), AAA Scholarships, McKay Vouchers, Bridge Scholarships, and parish scholarships. We work extremely hard to make sure Catholic Education is affordable and accessible to all families.