

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. John the Apostle Catholic School is a fully accredited parochial school with programs for children from four years of age through eighth grade. The curriculum presents a holistic view of education, providing an environment where children can grow intellectually, spiritually, socially, and culturally. The guiding philosophy of the uniqueness of each child of God leads the staff to join with the parents in seeking to bring to every student a knowledge of his/her own worth and potential.

Admission to St. John the Apostle Catholic School or participation in school programs is not denied students on the basis of race, color, ethnic or national origin. Admission shall not be denied because of any disabling condition unless it is clear that the staff, due to inadequate professional training and/or the school's program, will not be able to meet the student's needs.

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*The Administration reserves the right to make amendments
to the Parent/Student Handbook when issues warrant such action.*

INTRODUCTION

The aim of St. John the Apostle Catholic School is to provide a Christ-centered atmosphere in which each child can be challenged to strive for the highest possible level of formation, both spiritual and academic. The administration, faculty, and staff strive to instill a love for truth and a love for learning in each student. If effective learning is to take place, an atmosphere of study and Christian conduct must exist. All students are expected to practice self-control and good order at all times for the common good of the school. St. John the Apostle Catholic School looks to the home for support and cooperation in the implementation of these directives. **Your attendance at St. John the Apostle Catholic School indicates your willingness to comply with the school's policies, procedures, and regulations.**

HISTORY OF ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. John the Apostle Catholic School opened in 1965. The first classes were held in a temporary building while a permanent structure was being built. The present church and original eight classrooms were completed in the fall of the following year.

In 1965 St. John elected its first School Board, added four additional classrooms, and began a feasibility study of having a Kindergarten program. In 1970 St. John the Apostle Kindergarten accepted its first students. Those students had classes in temporary quarters the first year. 1971 saw the completion of a preschool building and an expansion of the program to include three and four year olds. A science room was added in 1972 and the library in 1977. The next additions came in 1988. A joint effort with the parish produced four more classrooms, an updated science room, and the Family Life Center, which included a gymnasium. In the fall of 2003 a new media center opened, along with a state-of-the-art computer lab as well as two new classrooms. In the summer of 2009 a five- phase master plan began that included the following to be accomplished during 2009-10: renovations to the cafeteria, necessary installations in the nurse's new clinic, repositioning of various classrooms, aesthetic facility updates, including paint of all outside facility trim and new metal soffits attached to the undersides of the canopy awnings, the removal of temporary buildings (Rooms 19-22, nurses' clinic, music room), and the addition of a new building that will house six classrooms.

Mrs. Anne Smith, the first principal, guided the school through many changes during her seven years as Administrator. From 1972 until 1989 Mrs. Leona Schwartz was the principal. During her seventeen years, St. John School grew to more than double its original enrollment and facility. In the fall of 1989, Mrs. Grace Messina signed on as principal until the end of the 1992-93 school year. In the fall of 1993, Dr. Bronte Gonsalves was appointed principal until the spring of 1997. Mrs. Pam Ratliff served as the principal from 1997 until the end of the 2002-03 school year. Dr. Cindy Cummins is the current principal of St. John the Apostle Catholic School.

A history can simply be a record of dates, or it can be a record of achievements. St. John the Apostle Catholic School is proud to have recorded numerous achievements during its forty years. Among them are the following: a stable enrollment and faculty, relevant curriculum and innovative programs, the continued success of its graduates, the return of many graduates as parents of St. John students, and the support and commitment of the families toward a value-based Catholic education.

The school was accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference in 1987 and again in 1997 and in 2007. St. John the Apostle School received numerous exemplary and outstanding ratings and full accreditation status each of these times. In October 2008 the U.S. Department of Education named St. John the Apostle Catholic School a Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School, one of 50 private schools and 270 public schools recognized nationally and the only school, public or private, in Tarrant County so designated in 2008.

Our school community looks forward to on-going achievement and development as an integral part of St. John the Apostle Catholic Parish. We are proud of our past history and look forward to the future with enthusiasm.

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

VISION STATEMENT

St. John the Apostle Catholic School recognizes that every child is a unique creation of God the Father and provides a Christian environment that reinforces each student's belief in himself/herself as a child of God.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. John the Apostle Catholic School provides a high quality, Catholic education that promotes the development of the whole child.

PHILOSOPHY

Believing that all children are unique creations of God and possess a special potential for reflecting His glory, St. John the Apostle Catholic School offers a supportive Catholic environment that reinforces belief in each individual as a child of God. Together with the family, the teachers and staff encourage the child's full potential, in a learning environment of Catholic principles and values, realistic goals, and relevant curriculum. Children are surrounded by spiritual, intellectual, cultural, social and physical opportunities structured to promote and challenge growth in all facets of their identity.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a spiritual life for the students through a variety of liturgical celebrations, prayers, sacraments, daily religious formation, and service to the community.
2. Promote optimal intellectual achievement through a well-rounded academic program that supports the needs of each student and encourages individual achievement, effective study skills, and life-long work habits.
3. Focus awareness and appreciation for our cultural diversity through experiences in the arts, foreign language, and technology.
4. Foster personal growth and individual responsibility through opportunities to make choices and to understand how these choices affect others, the community and the larger world.
5. Encourage a healthy life style through physical education and athletic programs that endorse life-long fitness and good health.

2009-2010 THEME

“ Invest in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit; Receive the Dividends for Life”

Based on the 2009-2010 NCEA theme –Catholic Schools - Morals, Discipline, Knowledge, Faith; Dividends for Life”

This year's theme as listed above focuses on the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit as they appear in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. God, in his infinite wisdom, has given us these Gifts through the Holy Spirit to help guide us as we confront the challenges in life. In this school year students will live their faith as they learn about the Gifts and apply them to their daily lives.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Parents, as well as those who take their place, are obliged and enjoy the right to educate children. The duty and the right of educating belong in a unique way to the Church which has been divinely entrusted with the mission to assist young men and woman so that they can arrive at the fullness of the Christian life. Among educational means the Christian faithful should greatly value schools, which are of principle assistance to parents in fulfilling their educational task. Parents should cooperate with the school's

teachers to whom they entrust their children to be educated, while teachers have the duty to collaborate closely with parents through associations and meetings.

Code of Canon Law: 793, 794, & 796

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

St. John the Apostle Catholic Parish celebrates the diversity of our families and unites our parish as a worshipping community by reaching out to all people with the word of God.

Our mission is to enrich the mind, body and spirit by fostering Christian ideals and beliefs for all, especially the youth, elderly, sick, and poor.

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

VISION STATEMENT

The St. John the Apostle Catholic School Advisory Council strives to create an environment which ensures quality learning conditions for our children.

MISSION STATEMENT

Realizing this, when the school environment is God-centered, the Catholic Faith of our students can be lived fully through communication among church, family, and school.

Our ultimate goal is to enable our students' lives to be enriched by the education that they will receive and by the Gospel message so that they may go into the world to be responsive members of society.

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