

Curriculum & Homework

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Curriculum:

To achieve the purpose of Catholic education, the principal organizes the school's curriculum, staff and physical facilities to be an expression of the philosophy and purpose of Catholic education and the specific goals of the school.

The required academic areas for the elementary school are: religion, language arts, communication arts (speaking, listening, reading and writing), fine arts (music, art), health, mathematics, physical education, science, social studies, Spanish and technology.

Family Life Program-Silver Burdette *Fully Alive*:

Each student has a separate book and it is taught as a unit in Religion Class in grades 3-8. In grade 5 - 8 parents are notified in writing when this unit will begin so they can discuss with their children what is being discussed and taught.

- In Grade 5 a local School Nurse comes in to speak to the girls. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend this session.
- In Grade 6, the emphasis is on Awakening Identity.
- In Grade 7, the effect of Chemical Abuse, especially in decision-making is stressed.
- In Grade 8, the emphasis is on Human Sexuality.

These books are kept in school but may go home with permission.

Physical Education:

Physical Education is a state requirement and required for all students unless excused by written request of the family physician. Parents may occasionally request a 1 or 2-day excuse from physical education with a written note.

Physical education classes shall be offered to all students twice a week.

Each student must have an extra pair of athletic shoes for gym. Each Middle School student must bring a T-shirt with sleeves (no holes) or sweatshirt and shorts or sweat pants for gym class. Shorts must be appropriate for physical activity - no jean shorts.

Speech Help & Title I Services:

Speech problems are treated by specialists from Racine County. Guidance for parents of children with suspected needs is available upon request.

Title I services are supplied to St. Mary's 1st grade students who have been determined to have specific needs in the areas of Math, Reading and Language Arts. Testing is done at the beginning of each year. State requirements and money available determine the number of students in the program.

School Records:

A cumulative record for each student is kept on file in the school office. These are permanent records that include the following information: scholastic records from Grades K-8; results of standardized tests; results from any psychological tests; attendance and tardiness records; personality and social ratings; health records; promotion and retention, and any other appropriate information.

PARENTS MAY REVIEW THEIR CHILD'S RECORDS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Testing Program Grades 3, 5, & 7:

Iowa Tests of Basic Skills are meant to give the teacher and the administrator a certain amount of information regarding the native endowments as well as the scholastic achievement of the student as he/she advances through the elementary grades. These tests are usually given the 2nd and 3rd weeks of March. It is important that your child be present. If a student is absent for reason other than illness, the test will NOT be given. When makeup testing is done, the regular class work also needs to be made up and results are not as accurate.

This school follows the testing program recommended by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Test results are recorded in each student's cumulative folder. Parents of children in these grades will receive a copy of the results by the end of the year.

Homework:

Homework is an assignment to be prepared or completed outside the regular class time. It is developmental in nature and increases in scope with maturity and capabilities of the student. Homework, properly planned and purposeful in nature, should help the student to:

1. Learn to work independently and become self-reliant.
2. Think, plan, organize and apply.
3. Extend proficiency in effective habits and skills.
4. Increase knowledge and its use.
5. Develop insights and stimulate creativity.
6. Adjust to the individual differences among students.

The time guide for out-of-class study is as follows:

Grades K-1-2-3	15-30 minutes
Grades 4-5	30-60 minutes
Grades 6-7-8	45-90 minutes

Make Up Work:

It is the responsibility of each student to make up work missed because of an absence. The student will be given the same number of days to make up the work, as they were absent. All tests must be made up in a reasonable time as designated by the teacher. Tests not made up on time become zeros. In grades 4-8, no late work, because of carelessness, can receive a grade above D. Late work is any assignment that is not completed at the time of collection or the correction of said assignment.