

Saint Peter School



**Grades
K-2**

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About our Primary Program...



At St. Peter School, the total integration of religious faith and values in the academic and learning process helps bring about the character of our faith community. Our religion program permeates all learning experiences for our children. The school is one part of a vital Catholic community dedicated to creating an environment that fosters the spiritual, mental, and social growth of each child. The clergy, administration, faculty, staff, and students nurture a loving community inspired by Gospel teaching and the example of Jesus Christ. Through a diversity of curriculum and culture, the students discover their unique talents and recognize them as gifts from God to be joyfully shared in the service of the Church and society.

The primary grades of kindergarten through second grade provide a warm, encouraging atmosphere and a strong program to ensure that each child achieves academic success and educational happiness during these critical years. Our low teacher-student ratio allows teachers to meet the needs of the class and the individual child. The academic program is designed to

stimulate curiosity and enhance problem-solving abilities. It develops the learning skills of reading, writing, thinking, and speaking and builds study skills as it introduces children to the first stages of academic discipline. Programs are designed to encourage individual and personal growth while simultaneously maximizing student success. The academic atmosphere promotes caring and cooperative relationships and helps children grow in confidence and trust. Children are encouraged to become risk-takers and lifelong learners in an environment where doing the right thing and leading a Christian life are valued.

Students spend most of their time with their classroom teachers. They engage in Spanish Cultural study with a foreign language teacher and travel to art, music, library, technology and physical education classes as well.



Please see our pamphlet on Co-curricular studies for details about these weekly classes. Students in grades kindergarten through two have the opportunity to attend science class in our science lab. Teachers in all of these specialty areas work closely with the classroom teachers to provide a rich, diverse educational experience.

**Join us for our Open House
January 31, 2010 10a-1p
to see today's
Catholic education in action!**



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...Holding the keys to a brighter future!

Language Arts

The language arts curriculum, with its focus on developing students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills, is designed to create lifelong readers and effective writers. The workshop approach begun in kindergarten continues as the students progress through the grades to help students with literacy acquisition. Instruction in spelling, phonics and grammar occurs in natural context and emphasizes the interrelationship between reading and writing. Students develop oral fluency and listening skills through their active participation in all classroom study.



During reading workshop, students select books of different genres, read individually or in flexible groups, and discuss what they have read in large or small group meetings. Teachers continually model literacy skills, such as vocabulary study, comprehension strategies, language usage and patterns, and inferential questioning.

In writing workshop, students learn to write in a variety of genres. Effectively using all stages of the Six Trait writing process -pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, publishing, and sharing - enables students to develop their written fluency. Students also focus on the mastery of manuscript handwriting, and they go on to learn cursive .

Math and Science

The mathematics program provides children with a solid background in arithmetic, geometry, measurement, and problem-solving skills, combining discovery and understanding of mathematical concepts with more traditional practice and review methodology. Using Harcourt and Saxon Math, students develop their number sense and learn addition, subtraction, and practical math applications, such as the thermometer, calendar, analog clock, and money equivalence. Critical-thinking skills are developed through graphs, tables, and manipulative tools. Most of all, children learn that they can master and apply mathematical concepts and reasoning, as teachers encourage students to see math as both fun and intellectually challenging.

The science program has two main goals: to introduce basic science concepts and to begin student acquisition of science skills. Students develop a wide range of process and inquiry skills. Hands-on activities provide opportunities for students to undertake their own investigations as they learn the scientific method. Multimedia materials, lab experiences, and outdoor explorations emphasize the continuous process of discovery. Students at all grade levels study life sciences, physical sciences, and chemical principles. Students learn to apply the scientific method by conducting controlled experiments: They



formulate questions, design the experiments, collect and analyze data, and then present their findings to their peers. Students are provided with health instruction each year on topics such as nutrition, dental health, and hygiene. They also learn to better understand emotions and the responsibilities of friendship.

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum has five major strands: geography, history, economics, civics, and ethics. All strands are inquiry-based, encouraging students to learn about the world around them through family, community, and country. Geography in the lower grades at St. Peter School focuses on location, region, and human interaction with the environment. The history strand focuses on comparisons between "then and now," while the growth of the market system provides the core economic thread. The civics strand discusses values, equality, and social justice through ethics investigation.



**Before and AfterCare
available 6am to 6 pm for a
school day with continuity.**

Our low student-teacher ratio provides good individual interaction with teaching staff and a more personalized academic structure to help ensure a child's scholastic success. Children are provided with individualized learning activities that build on existing knowledge to develop intellectual ability and cognitive awareness. Please see our pamphlet on learning support for more information. St. Peter School's small classes create an engaging place for students to foster a more personal connection with teachers, thus providing excellent educational opportunity.