



Dear prospective families,

2019

Welcome to St. Agatha Catholic School!



The 2019 theme for Catholic Schools is “Learn. Serve. Lead. **Succeed.**” The theme focuses on key elements of Catholic education: faith development, academic excellence, dedication to service and preparation for adulthood. It just so happens that this theme aligns with our own school’s mission statement. St. Agatha Catholic School is a faith-filled learning community committed to the academic and spiritual development of each child, fostering students who will be dedicated to a lifetime of learning, faith, and service.

Our school is accredited through the Western Catholic Education Association. St. Agatha received the highest status of accreditation. Below are comments from the visiting team:



"The team found our 3 days at St. Agatha professionally rich and personally rewarding. We experienced a community where everyone is striving to provide a Catholic environment where quality education is a priority. The partnership that exists between the community of students, teachers, parents, administration, and the parish is truly a gift of the Holy Spirit and a tribute to everyone's care for the community. The faculty and staff is highly effective in their use of educationally sound assessment processes to collect data (and) at applying research-based knowledge about teaching and learning in the instructional process. There is a very strong sense of Catholic Identity at St. Agatha from the moment you enter the school. Throughout the visit, the visiting committee was in awe of the strong sense of community and family amongst the faculty, staff, parents, and students. The students are commended for their articulation of the three pillars of learning, faith, and service and how they connect to the many learning opportunities they are afforded by the strong, faith filled faculty and staff."



Learning

Data analysis shows our students are improving their learning. Longitudinal reports on our standardized STAR testing show our students are performing better than the previous year in both Math and Reading. Teacher professional development is focusing on standards alignment, understanding by design principles for unit planning, technology integration, and differentiating instruction for all learners. High schools and alumni report St. Agatha students come to high school well prepared. *Many of our students have received awards and commendations:*

2017 High School awards: Zach S. '13 Noah K. '13 ~ Valedictorians, Isadora C. '15 Christian B. '16 ~ Presidential Academic Excellence Award, Samuel M. '16 ~ World History, Abby P. '16 Ann Marie B. '16 ~ Algebra, Andrew H. '16 ~ Geometry

"Faith and Reason are like two wings of the human spirit by which it soars to the truth"

- Pope John Paul II

Faith

Our school and parish collaborate to help our students to grow in their faith: including buddy classes attending daily mass on Mondays with parishioners, real world service opportunities, spotlighting a parishioner each month in our school lobby, and highlighting Student Learning Expectations to focus on modeling the Catholic faith.



Service

Increased service opportunities for all students. Our Youth Ministry organizes school wide service projects that have included supporting the poor around the world and within our own community, and each grade level focuses on their own individual service projects throughout the year which include outreach, projects, and prayer.



St. Agatha Unique Features and Updates

- Increased staffing to support students with learning needs with two full time learning specialists, bringing our overall student to teacher ratio to 11:1 (National average for Catholic schools is 12:1).
- Safety enhancements including classroom windows, fire doors, card-lock access and a security system.
- A hot lunch program with a redesign of lunch and recess focusing on best practice for health.
- Three mobile carts housing 80 Chromebooks thanks to generous grants from the Juan Young Trust. Upgraded infrastructure and iPads for small group support. A 3D printer, coding robots, and enhanced technology curriculum ensures our students are on the cutting edge learning to use technology appropriately as a tool and to enhance their learning, grow as digital citizens, and limit screen time.
- A redesign of the middle school schedule has increased class blocks and added an elective period. Middle school electives allow students to have a say in what they learn and achieve our goal to inspire and produce well rounded individuals who develop their passions and talents. Electives include Drama, Fitness, Photography, Cooking and offerings that focus on Math, Science, Literature, and Art.
- A Band program for students in Grades 4-8, and several after school enrichment classes including Mad Science, Judo, Tennis, Drama, Chess, Coding, Rhythm and Percussions, and more.
- Art, Music, Physical Education, Spanish and Technology classes for students in K-8.
- A Spring Musical for students in grades 3-8 (2018: Aladdin Jr.)
- Increased tuition assistance support made possible by the B.P. Lester and Regina John Foundation, the Weston Foundation, and support from our parish. Our largest source of support and aid comes from the Friends of St. Agatha Trust.
- New playgrounds for all of our students (installed 2017).

I am grateful every day for the teachers, staff, committees, parents and volunteers who make our school a success. I look forward to welcoming our new families to St. Agatha in the fall. If you or someone you know is interested in a St. Agatha education, please contact us for more information. We would be happy to schedule or tour or discuss our program over the phone.

Sincerely,

Mr. Chris Harris

Principal St. Agatha Catholic School 503.234.5500

