



FROM THE DESK OF
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Middle School Matters

Catholic education aims to not only communicate facts, but also to transmit a coherent, comprehensive vision of life. – St. Pope John Paul II

No curriculum has the ability to positively influence the life of a young person unless it's delivered within a culture that helps students grow in confidence and wisdom and ensures that they feel valued, safe, and loved. Such is the culture that we embrace and nurture at St. Joseph's Catholic School. Our approach, called "The St. Joseph's Way," intentionally develops the whole child – mind, heart, and spirit. Our academic curriculum is designed with high standards and expectations for *every student*, and a wide variety of co-curricular opportunities promote an environment of exploration and discovery. Character development and spiritual growth are essential elements of all that we do and are interwoven into the very fabric of how we educate. Jesus, the Master Teacher, is our ever-present model and guide.

Does middle school matter?

Absolutely! Middle school establishes the framework of success for young men and women. Students begin to understand the importance of education and its role in their path to achievement, as they start to visualize their future and take responsibility for their learning. Our teachers will challenge your children to analyze, extract, synthesize, and apply information in new ways. This requires a diligence and resilience that is still developing at the middle school age, yet is vital to their future success. Choosing a middle school that simultaneously meets these needs and nurtures your child at this critical developmental time is crucial.

What makes St. Joseph's Middle School different?

Our Middle School provides the opportunity for students to ...

- Thrive in single gender classrooms
- Participate in a liberal arts curriculum that forms young persons in mind, body, and spirit
- Establish strong relationships with teachers and students in a small, nurturing community
- Engage and connect in co-curricular activities – Arts, Athletics, Campus Ministry
- Develop and practice organizational and study skills

What is the Sixth Grade Academy?

Sixth grade is a significant transitional year. In Middle School, there's more movement, more teachers, more classes, and of course, more students, many of whom are bigger and older. Our Sixth Grade Academy provides a unique educational approach to ease this transition, one which enables us to nurture students from childhood into adolescence while still allowing them to enjoy the innocence of sixth grade.

- Committed sixth grade core teaching team with a common planning period
- Dedicated space with bright classrooms and an open commons area with sixth grade lockers
- Flexible schedule that is adaptive in response to student needs
- Access to Chromebooks and classroom technology
- Intentional focus on team-building and belonging, as well as virtue and character development