



Nativity Catholic School Curricular Overview

Religion is central to all that happens on the Nativity Catholic School campus. It is the heartbeat of our entire curriculum!

Nativity Catholic School Mission Statement

Nativity Catholic School recognizes each student as a unique child of God and provides a learning environment that develops each student's spiritual, intellectual, social, physical, and emotional gifts.

Curricular Philosophy

Nativity Catholic School's enriched learning environment is founded upon the Gospel teachings of Christ, builds character and develops faith-filled leaders of society. We utilize research-based theories in our instruction, which guide us to affirm the gifts of each student. Our learning environment is interdisciplinary, allowing all of our students to expand their ways of thinking, learning, and communicating using a variety of methods. We incorporate real-world applications of content in an engaging manner which deepens students' knowledge and instructs them to solve problems creatively.

Key Instructional Methodologies

Nativity Catholic School offers a strong blend of traditional and innovative teaching methodologies such as cooperative learning, brainstorming, discussion, role playing, direct instruction, experiential learning, field trips, video technology applications, discovery-based learning, hands-on experience, lecture, guest/expert presentations, real-life applications, inquiry-based learning, and varied assessment strategies.

These methodologies are employed in the teaching of a spiral curriculum. In a curriculum of this design, children are exposed to concepts and content at an early age; these concepts and content continue to be explored at an ever-deepening level as children grow and develop.

Curricular Goals

Nativity Catholic School's seven over-arching curricular goals are:

1. Faith formation which nurtures children's personal relationship with a loving God
2. Expanding and integrating students' knowledge
3. Helping children learn how to learn
4. Developing students' communication skills
5. Fostering children's interpersonal skills
6. Building students' thinking and reasoning skills
7. Linking children's personal and social responsibility to the Gospel message

Nativity Catholic School's Core Curricular Classes

- Religion
 - Faith formation inclusive of teachings of the Catholic Church, moral decision making, social justice, prayer experiences including weekly Mass, and stewardship/service through school projects and class ministries
- Language Arts
 - Emphasis upon oral and written communication skills, developing reading comprehension and a love of literature, a strong grammar skill base, and the extension of vocabulary as tools for expressing learning across the curriculum
- Math
 - Essential skills with number systems and number theory mastered and applied to problem solving, real-world situations, and critical thinking activities. Students can earn high school credit for Algebra I in this program.
- Science
 - Discovery-based program of life, earth, physical, and space sciences designed to promote curiosity and scientific inquiry skills through hands-on/minds-on/hearts-on lab experiences. Students can earn high school credit for Integrated Physical Science in this program.
- Social Studies
 - Community, national, and international studies of history, geography, and social science with emphasis on Christian citizenship in an interdependent, ever-changing world
- Spanish
 - Instruction in the national world languages goals of communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities. Students can earn high school Spanish I credit in this program.

While many schools have cut programs such as Fine Arts, Nativity Catholic School is blessed to be able to provide all of the following curricular areas to all students:

- Art
 - Exploration of the elements of line, shape, color, value, form, texture and space using varied media that encourage creative expression
- Music
 - Applies the elements of melody, harmony, rhythm and musical notation and allows for self-expression and creativity through singing, dancing, playing musical instruments and performing
- Technology
 - Applied use of varied technologies for cross-curricular research, projects, multimedia presentations, science and math applications, and broadcast communications
- Media
 - Develops information literacy for research, promotes comprehension through exposure to varied literature, and fosters the desire to read for personal enjoyment
- Physical Education
 - Promotes fitness, spatial awareness, motor skills development, movement, drills, team sports, and health and wellness through the study of body systems and nutrition
- Guidance
 - Age-appropriate lessons on topics such as empathy, decision-making, dealing with emotions, drug prevention, building healthy relationships, self-awareness, and handling peer pressure

Nativity Catholic School schedules additional Core II classes for seventh and eighth grade students to provide deeper investigation into areas already being studied. These courses rotate on a regular basis and include such topics as on-line publishing, rocket science, story-telling, debate, cultural dance, strategy games, producing commercials, and social etiquette.

Nativity Catholic School's curriculum extends beyond the school day and expresses itself in Curricular Extension Options such as

- Karate
- Band
- Choir
- Art club
- Tech club
- Future City Team
- Math League
- Golf
- Chess
- Yearbook

- Math Enrichment
- Extended Day Program (6 AM to 6 PM daily)
- Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- Baton
- School Musical/Play
- Middle School Dances
- Junior Varsity and Varsity Athletic Teams
- Basketball
- Track and Field
- Volleyball
- Softball
- Tennis
- Soccer
- Intramural Sports
- After school tutoring opportunities
- Pep Club

For a closer look at how these pieces of the curriculum come together to accomplish Nativity Catholic School's Mission Statement, visit http://home.catholicweb.com/dosp_ocsc/index.cfm/products