



FAITH • LEADERSHIP • SERVICE

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES AND ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

2023-2024 INFORMATION PACKET



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ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

LED BY THE SPIRIT, THE MISSION OF ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL IS:

- To **lead** children and families to Christ within the Catholic Christian community.
- To **foster** the spiritual, academic, social, emotional, and physical development of each person.
- To **prepare** our students to use knowledge and faith to be a light for the parish, community, and world.



St. Joseph's School integrates religious truths and values throughout daily learning. Religion is not just one more subject alongside the rest. We teach the truth of the Gospel to encourage students to understand their duties to God, their neighbors and themselves. As a school, we believe that children who are well-grounded in their faith know who they are - they are images of God.

Faith: We lead our students to a personal relationship with Christ by fostering their spiritual development through exposure to the Gospel and Catholic teaching, worship, and focus on the Beatitudes. This will prepare our students to be active life-long members of the Catholic/Christian community.

Leadership: We lead our students to become responsible Catholic/Christian members of society. We work to foster the self confidence to accept their true call from God and prepare them for life-long learning and academic excellence.

Service: We lead our students to Christ through service learning experiences and foster each student's unique gifts to be used to glorify God and serve others. We prepare our students to develop keen sense of peace, social justice, and respect for their obligations in their communities and world.

WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL



Thank you for your interest in St. Joseph's School. Your children are treasured gifts from God. St. Joseph's School exists to assist parents in forming the whole student/person. The Catholic Church teaches that "the special character of the Catholic school, the underlying reason for it, the reason why Catholic parents should prefer it, is precisely the quality of the religious instruction integrated into the education of the pupils."



In the midst of our school days, our students pray, worship, talk about faith, and join in serving others. This makes an incredible difference in their lives! Our dedicated teachers and administrators are committed to providing an excellent education. St. Joseph's students have the benefit of small class sizes, a Catholic-Christian setting where Jesus is ever present and acknowledged. In our school "family," everyone knows each others' names and protect each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. All this helps your child to thrive from pre-school to 8th grade.

Again, thank you for considering St. Joseph's School for your children. You won't be disappointed!

~ Fr. Vincent Miller: Pastor, St. Joseph's Parish



We are blessed to have the extraordinary quality of education offered at St. Joseph's School. Our students do not only excel in academics. They learn great study habits, which gives them great advantage for their future educational efforts. I am especially grateful for the Catholic environment and community they experience at St. Joseph's School. They develop a sense of belonging, a more confident Catholic identity, and a spirit of service to one another and to the greater community. St. Joseph's School is faith in action. Thanks be to God.

~ Fr. Mashio Mascarenhas: Pastor, St. Francis de Sales'

It is a great joy seeing the students, faculty, staff, families, and parishioner supporters carry a deep-seeded belief and confidence in our school. At St. Joseph's School, various groups selflessly work together daily to live out our mission statement.

At the center of this work and mission is our students. There is a purpose to our undertakings at St. Joseph's that distinguishes us from other schools and impacts our students throughout their lives. Not only are we focused and vested in providing our students excellent educations, but in helping them grow into excellent people.

~ Laurie Johnson, Principal



PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN READINESS

We pride ourselves in building a strong foundation for our preschool students. We have three teachers whose combined experience totals 50+ years. A structured, theme-based curriculum is used to instruct our students, and within the curriculum, our teachers use hands-on activities to teach basic skills in reading, writing, and math. The gospel values are taught daily and are incorporated into classroom lessons, service projects, and life skills. Use of the gym, library, computer lab, and music specialist are a part of our weekly routine. Field trips into the community to enhance learning, and classroom projects are used to enhance developmentally appropriate learning experiences.

Some of our special preschool experiences may include:

- Pumpkin patch field trip
- A trip to the planetarium
- Hatching baby chicks
- Fire truck visit
- Singing at the nursing home



KINDERGARTEN



Special kindergarten experiences include:

- Adoration and Mass
- Kindergarten prayer service
- Learning centers
- Seder Meal
- Daily physical class
- Decorate bags for Meals on Wheels

Our Kindergarten program is both faith filled and educational. Small class sizes allows students more opportunities for individualized learning time and to advance in all areas of education. Children participate in small group reading lessons to meet each child's stage of development and to help them excel their reading and comprehension skills. Our hands on "Every Day Math" program helps our children apply their math skills to gain a full understanding of each lesson. Hands-on classroom experiences are used regularly as teaching tools.

FIRST GRADE

In first grade, we put a strong focus on each child's reading skills. We are able to work in small reading groups to challenge every student at their individual level. Students develop their writing skills during Writing Workshop as they are introduced to a variety of writing genres.

They practice sharing life events in their personal narrative writing, comparing two objects in their opinion writing, and much more! Our two teachers often team teach and the students float between the classrooms daily. Our creative teachers have a way of bringing structured lessons to life through activities and games, and helping students to retain what they have learned.



Special 1st grade experiences include:

- Friday Fun (positive behavior program)
- The Animal's Thanksgiving (play)
- Christmas Around the World
- Centers and guided reading
- Bible verse recitation activity during Lent
- February reading challenge



SECOND GRADE



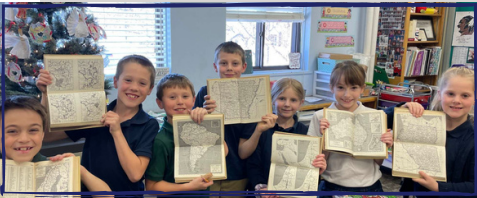
Special 2nd grade experiences include:

- Service field trip projects with local nursing home
- Dorothy Day House collection service project and field trip
- Living Stations of the Cross
- National Reading Month and our "Secret Readers" program

Second grade is an important sacramental year for our students. With first reconciliation in December and first Eucharist in the spring, we work hard to help our students prepare for these important religious moments in their life. To prepare our students for these sacraments, we partner with the parents, the parish, buddies from older grades, and various community sources to instill the words and acts of Christ in our children's hearts. With many community service projects, the students have many opportunities to live out the lessons they've learned, demonstrating a true understanding that we are Christ to one another by our actions and our deeds.

THIRD GRADE

Our students' third grade year proves to keep them active in and out of the classroom. With 3rd grade comes many academic and extracurricular activities for students to try out and to participate. We have recorder lessons for all 3rd grade students to expose them to playing musical instruments. Invention Convention, immersion City Hall field trip to local government, and promoting added responsibilities makes for a big year!



Special 3rd grade experiences include:

- Ronald McDonald House Partnership
- Invention Convention
- Participation in school choir
- School sports team opportunities

In fourth grade, our students use active learning projects to incorporate textbook materials to real life applications. Our teachers focus on the development of the whole child, including fostering the child's faith through active participation in liturgies/prayers, community service projects, and various religious studies/classroom projects. In Social Studies, students explore the Regions of the United States and create a project in groups to present to the class. Students also participate in the Red River Water Festival, which educates students on the importance of water in our region of the world.

FOURTH GRADE



Special 4th grade experiences include:

- Fill the Dome stewardship project
- Community track meets
- Participation in the school choir
- Red River Water Festival field trip
- US Regions project presentation
- Gummy Bear experiment



FIFTH GRADE

Our fifth grade students have a busy year of learning. Recognizing that each student is their own learner, 5th grade takes an individualized approach to student learning. Technology is woven into the fabric of the 5th grade classroom as students extend their learning in new and creative ways. This final year of elementary school encourages an increased level of responsibility and independence, that truly is inspiring to watch come to fruition.



Special 5th grade experiences include:

- Raking service project
- Class ski trip
- Altar server training
- Parochial track meet
- Book club
- Wax museum biographies



SIXTH GRADE

Our sixth grade class makes the transition from elementary school to middle school, meaning the 6th-8th grade students travel between teachers and classrooms depending on the subject. Sixth graders are introduced to the middle school with quite the welcome gift - their own personal learning device which they use throughout the day and in the evening for homework and projects. As part of the middle school, the 6th grade students have many exciting opportunities to develop 21st century learning skills, including participation in the community exploration program and hands-on classroom projects that require teamwork, collaboration, and critical thinking skills.



Special 6th grade experiences include:

- Crowning of Mary
- Class ski trip
- Flag responsibilities
- Personal learning devices
- NET retreat



SEVENTH GRADE

In seventh grade, students are given many opportunities to become leaders within our school and community. Students develop leadership skills and grow in faith by organizing a community blood drive, planning and leading the living rosary and participating in a number of spiritual retreats. As part of the middle school, 7th grade students travel from class to class throughout the day.

Special 7th grade experiences include:

- Living Rosary
- Middle School Retreats
- Class ski trip
- Annual blood drive
- Personal learning devices
- NET retreat
- Intercom prayer
- Mock voting day

EIGHTH GRADE

The 8th grade students are the leaders of St. Joseph's School. Fittingly, the middle school teaching team provide a hands-on learning approach with many faith, leadership, and service projects throughout the year. Our 8th grade students run our school recycling program. Students participate in the FIRST Robotics club. Our 8th graders lead our weekly morning prayer services and are wonderful role models for our younger students.

Special 8th grade experiences include:

- Class trip
- Middle School retreats
- Seder Meal
- Class ski trip
- Ash distributors on Ash Wednesday
- Robotics competitions
- Personal learning devices
- Engineering Fair
- Wreaths Across America
- 8th grade graduation



EXTENDED DAY AND SUMMER PROGRAM

St. Joseph's School offers convenient afterschool care, non-school day care, and a summer program for our families. In our afterschool programs, children are encouraged to try new things, create, and explore the world they live in within a Catholic-Christian setting. Our activities and field trips are educational in nature but are approached within a fun and engaging atmosphere.



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Our afterschool program offers educational programming, outdoor play, and snack for all of our participants from 3:00 - 5:45 p.m. Monday - Friday. We have developmentally appropriate activities for all participant ages within our program, and offer separate classroom spaces for different age groups. There are multiple plans to choose from to match your family's need. For details about our full and part-time options, see the tuition information sheet in the back of this packet.

For many of our non-school days (such as President's Day or MLK Jr. Day), we offer a day camp program for any St. Joseph's School student. Whether your child attends because you are a working parent or because the camp simply sounds like fun, you may register to join in our active days. Each camp day has a theme, with educational activities. Take learning to a new level while making memories with your friends!

NON-SCHOOL DAYS

SUMMER PROGRAM

St. Joseph's summer program is a day camp program with weekly themes and activities. Children go on daily field trips and experience activities such as growing a garden, cooking, creating art, playing outdoor games, learning new languages, and exploring nature. Camps are offered from May 28 - August 16, 2024. Look for our online brochure mid - February at www.stjoesmhdschool.com.

DEVELOPING WELL-ROUNDED STUDENTS



TECHNOLOGY

MUSIC

At St. Joseph's, we have many wonderful music programs and opportunities. We offer weekly music classes, individual piano lessons, band, and choir opportunities. Our school annually presents an all-school Advent program and Drama production which includes singing, acting, and musical instrument performances. Students also prepare and help lead song for weekly Masses and weekend liturgies.



Our school social worker is a presence in and out of the classroom to teach

SOCIAL WORKER

lessons, helping the children develop healthy social and emotional skills. Our social worker is also an excellent resource for students that encounter a bump in the road at school or in their personal life; from meeting individually with students to having families sit down to collaborate, there is a supportive hand available.

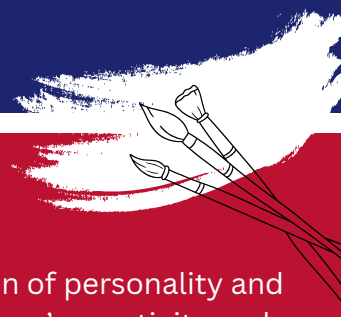
NURSE

Through a partnership with Moorhead Area Public Schools, we have a school nurse / health tech on-site on a daily basis to help assist children who are ill or injured. Our school nurse provides a caring touch that comforts our students and gives them a quick-start on the road to recovery.

Outfitted with 25 computers, 3D-printers and so much more, our technology lab was designed with students in preschool through 8th grade in mind. Every grade participates in technology class at least once a week and is able to use the technology lab for classroom lessons and research. Through the curriculum, students become increasingly familiar with and adept at using technology as a 21st century tool. Programs such as Word, Power Point, Excel, and coding are just a few tools students learn to use.

LIBRARY

A passion for reading can do wonders in a child's education. Our recently remodeled library and eager librarian, Mrs. Erdmann provide a wonderful resource and setting to help each student fall in love with reading.



ART

Art is an expression of personality and encourages children's creativity and critical thinking. Students in kindergarten through 8th grade work with our art instructor to drawings and using many media forms. They learn the historical components and elements of art.

Our Title I teacher meets with small groups of students in the primary grades to develop their literacy and math skills. We recently added MN Reading Corps for K-3rd grade and Math Corps for 4th-8th grade. A tutor works on research based interventions with individuals to strengthen skills. For students with Dyslexia (or those showing signs), a trained tutor meets one-on-one to implement the Barton Reading and Spelling System.

LEARNER SUPPORT

All students, preschool through 8th grade, use the gym

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

daily. We support the research saying students that move more, learn more. Students develop healthy habits, character and cooperative skills. Our PE department has equipment for students to develop motor skills in a variety of activities. Offering PE each day helps students concentrate more in the classroom, have higher quality of sleep, and increases leadership skills and teamwork.



QUOTE FROM A SCHOOL PARENT ON THEIR REASON FOR CHOOSING ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

"We send our children to St. Joseph's for lots of different reasons: great academics, small class sizes, and great teachers. But our children are at St. Joe's because they are allowed to freely talk about God; they are encouraged to be their best; they are taught how to respect others and how much respect is expected throughout the school for people and property. I wouldn't trade my children's education for anything. I can't imagine sending my kids to another school, because they wouldn't get everything that they get at St. Joseph's."

THINGS THAT MAKE ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL UNIQUE

- **Our students move.**
 - We support the research that says kids that move more, learn more.
 - Students average an hour of physical activity time each day.
 - Preschool and kindergarten student have physical education class twice a day.
- **Our students serve.**
 - St. Joseph's School performs a major service project every month.
- **Our students lead.**
 - Students lead the parish community in Mass each week.
 - Students lead their peers in service projects.

We have a buddy program that pairs lower and upper grade students together to share in various activities throughout the year. It's a great way to accelerate learning crucial social and emotional skills.

ADMISSIONS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

It is our privilege to have your consideration in partnering to provide an exceptional education for your children!

Below is the process for admissions, enrollment, and scholarship for new Families to St. Joseph's School.

Please direct any school, admissions, enrollment or general questions to Mrs. Laurie Johnson (laurie.johnson@stjoesmhdhschool.com | 218.233.0553) and any tuition agreement or scholarship questions to Mr. Robert Thom (rthom@stjoesmhd.com | 218.236.5066).

INQUIRE / TOUR

- Schedule a time to tour St. Joseph's School with Mrs. Johnson, school principal.
- Tours can be scheduled at your family's convenience by contacting the school office or by attending an open house.

ADMISSIONS APPLICATION

- Visit the St. Joseph's School website (www.stjoesmhdhschool.com) and select "Apply Now" to navigate to TADS, a third party website that will allow you to create an account as a school family.
- Complete the "Admissions Application" and submit the application fee.
- Your family will be contacted by Mrs. Johnson to follow up on the application. In the event that the school is unable to accept your application, the fee will be refunded.

ENROLL

- If admissions application is accepted, your family will receive an email inviting you to complete the "Registration for Enrollment" within your TADS account.
- Upon completion of your registration, your child's spot will be solidified for the school year.
- Enrollment forms required for attendance are due mid-August; forms can be found on the school website under "Current Families" or in your TADS account.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (K- 8)

- Families who have a need for tuition assistance (and indicated so in the Application for Admission) will receive a scholarship application.
- Families will meet with the school Business Manager to develop a tuition agreement.
- Families enrolling for preschool are not eligible for scholarship through St. Joseph's School but rather are able to utilize Child Care Assistance funds through their state / county.

TUITION AGREEMENT

- Tuition Agreements will be sent to families through an email from TADS.
- Agreements must be set-up and completed by August 15; any agreement not completed by the first day of school will result in withdrawing of attendance. Families enrolling mid-year must have an agreement set-up prior to their child's first day of attendance.

In the event that enrollment for a specific class is full, a waiting list will be established.

Waiting list priority will be established based on a number of considerations, including but not limited to the following:

- Registered members/families of St. Joseph's Parish or St. Francis de Sales' Parish with a sibling already enrolled in the school.
- Registered members/families of St. Joseph's Parish or St. Francis de Sales' Parish who do not have any children enrolled in the school.
- Unregistered members/families of St. Joseph's Parish or St. Francis de Sales' Parish who agree to register with St. Joseph's Parish or St. Francis de Sales' Parish (including families who are transferring from another Catholic school).
- Catholic children who attend another parish.
- Other applicants not in the above categories.

If a family chooses to remove their child's application from a waiting list, the registration fee will be refunded.

Tuition & Fees

2023-2024

Kindergarten – 8th Grade Tuition

(Only applies to concurrent enrollment K-8)

	Parish Families		Non-Parish Families	
	K-5	6-8	K-5	6-8
1st Child	\$4,292	\$4,970	\$4,792	\$5,470
2nd Child	\$4,023		\$4,523	
3rd Child	\$3,752		\$4,252	
4th Child	\$0		\$500	

Preschool / Kindergarten Readiness—Tuition

Based on monthly payments from September - May

Students must be age eligible by

September 1st of the school year

Program	Rate
3 & 4 Year Old T/W/TH - 7:50-10:20am	\$223
4 & 5 Year Old T/W/TH - 7:50-3:00pm	\$544 (lunch included)
4 & 5 Year Old T/W/TH - 7:50-5:45pm	\$644 (lunch, extended day, and non-school days included in rate)
4 & 5 Year Old M-F - 7:50-3:00pm	\$754 (lunch included)
4 & 5 Year Old M-F - 7:50-5:45pm	\$917 (lunch, extended day, and non-school days included in rate)

Registration & Student Activity Fees

\$50 non-refundable registration fee due at the time of registration. *After April 1st* the registration fee is \$70 per student.

\$65 activity fee will be due in the fall. This fee pays for lyceums, plays, field trips, class parties & transportation.

\$150 technology fee for 6-8th grade.

\$80 technology fee for K-5th grade.

Extra-Curricular Activities

\$65 Boys and Girls Extra-curricular, K-8th

\$85 per semester Band 5-8 grade

Classroom Supplies

Calculators (grades 1-3):	\$7
Headphones (new students):	\$15

Extended Day Program (Hours: 3:00 - 5:45pm)

Monthly rate reflects September - May

\$20 non-refundable registration fee due at registration

Program	Rate
5 Days/Week M-F – 3:00 - 5:45pm	\$350
5 Days/Week M-F – 3:00 - 4:30pm	\$211

Day Rate: \$19

Families who do not need full time care may choose the Day Rate Option. Days of attendance must be communicated to the director by the 20th of the month prior. Any care that is needed and not communicated by the 20th of the month prior, does require 24 hour notice and will only be offered if space allows at a rate of \$21/day.

Non-School Days

Registration forms will be out prior to Non-School Day

1st Child	\$37/Day
2nd Child	\$35/Day
3rd Child	\$32/Day

K-8 Hot Lunch

St. Joseph's school will continue to participate in the National School Lunch Program in 2023-2024. This year Minnesota State Legislators have provided the opportunity for free meals for all students in K-8. It is anticipated that St. Joseph's will not only serve Hot Lunch but also a Breakfast option as well, at no additional cost to the families. More details will be available as they come to light.

Milk and Juice

Annual Fee for Kindergarten Juice \$70

No fee for Kindergarten Milk

Annual Fee for 1-5 Milk and Juice \$70