

Our Lady of Fatima School Goals

Spiritual Goals:

- To help the students grow in their awareness of God's personal love for them as His precious children and to nurture a loving and lasting relationship with God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We also foster a loving, prayerful relationship with Jesus as their Savior and Mary as their model of faith.
- To instill in the students a sense of belonging to a caring Catholic parish community and to the Universal Church.
- To help the children develop an understanding of our Catholic faith as expressed in the New Catechism, the Creed, and sacramental life of the church.
- To instill in the students an understanding that, while we are brothers and sisters in Christ, we must appreciate others who are not a part of our school or faith community.
- To assure that each graduate leaves with an exposure to and a love for the Holy Bible.

To achieve our spiritual goals:

- We help the students grasp the loving and personal relationship God has with them by frequently assuring them of God's loving care. We also affirm this freely given, divine, unconditional love by relating to each student with respect, love, and understanding.
- We engage in prayerful reflections on the sacred scripture and on the centrality of the Eucharist in our Catholic faith.
- We offer our students an organized catechetical program of instruction following the guidelines found in the New Catechism as outlined in the Archdiocesan course of studies.
- We assign the Bible a prominent place in each classroom and students study scripture on an ongoing basis through our lectionary-based catechetical program.
- We give children ample opportunities to participate in the sacramental life of the Church particularly in the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation. Our second grade students and their parents participate in our parish-wide Sacramental Preparation Program.
- We teach our children formal and informal prayer, fostering the habit of turning to God at all times: in praise, thanksgiving, supplication, and contrition.

- We provide the students in grades three and up with an annual off-campus retreat, organized and facilitated by religious leaders, which takes place during the regularly scheduled school day.
- We provide our students with various opportunities to engage in Christian service in our school and parish community, as well as the global community.
- We encourage the students to practice the values of honesty, respect for others and self, responsibility for their actions, active concern for those in need, tolerance for those different from them, and conflict resolution.
- We nurture family spirituality by providing parents with reading catechist material and parent meetings to help them keep current with the teachings and the life of the Church.
- We provide the parents with a tool to exercise their role as primary catechist of their children through our weekly Gospel and activities from our religion text and family life books and through their participation in our religious program.
- We invite students to reflect upon current events in the light of their faith to illustrate that the Church's teachings are to be applied to daily life.

Academic Achievement Goals:

- To help our students develop the intellectual abilities and talents necessary to further their academic experiences and take an active part in today's society.
- To develop critical thinking skills and reasoning processes that will prepare each student to become a life-long learner with the ability to face challenges and make good choices.
- To cultivate attitudes, ideas, and habits that will enable students to competently meet the demands of the present and the challenges of the future.
- To meet the unique learning needs of all students.
- To keep parents informed of student progress so that they understand their child's development and are thus able to reinforce the learning process.
- To maintain an efficient, current, and meaningful curriculum.

To achieve our academic achievement goals:

- We emphasize a student-centered approach, cooperative learning techniques, and multi-sensory methods.

- We teach the basic skills of reading, writing, communication, and mathematics that enable students to read and communicate with increasing ease, clarity, comprehension, and correct usage.
- We provide students with a forum for discussion of contemporary moral and social problems to help them develop related problem-solving techniques.
- We challenge the students to think independently, logically, creatively, and critically through the use of basic texts and supplementary materials.
- We supplement the curriculum with specialized instructors in music and physical education.
- We departmentalize instruction in grades 4 through 8 in religion, language arts, social studies, science, math, and art.
- We keep parents informed of student progress through a back-to-school night, open house, parent conferences, report cards, progress reports, and homework notebooks.
- We review our curriculum on a regular basis to assure that the material taught continues to be appropriate as well as current.

Personal and Social Development Goals:

- To guide our students in developing a positive self-image.
- To develop attitudes of respect, acceptance, and courtesy toward others.
- To instill in our students an appreciation of the cultural diversity that exists in our local and world communities.
- To educate our students on the moral imperative to work toward social justice and peace in our local and world communities.
- To assist our students in developing the cooperation and leadership skills needed to assume their responsibilities as members of society.

To achieve these personal and social development goals:

- We offer oral praise and affirm the uniqueness of each student. We foster pride in individual and group achievements by recognizing and/or rewarding these students for achievements in many areas of performance.
- We provide many opportunities for the development of student leadership and participation in a variety of service projects.

- We offer a comprehensive counseling program by a licensed child and family therapist with teacher, parent, and student components.
- We teach and implement a school-wide conflict resolution program.
- We encourage our students to explore the beauty and wealth of the cultural heritage of the world.

Physical Development Goals:

- To foster in our students an awareness of the importance of good physical health essential to their total growth and well-being.
- To create in the school an atmosphere of concern and care for health and safety.
- To develop healthy attitudes towards one's sexuality and physical maturation.
- To motivate our students to take advantage of the many opportunities available to them at the school or in the community to develop good physical skills and proper health habits.

To achieve the physical development goals:

- We provide our students with a good physical education program.
- We provide students with a large, safe, and clean playground with both grassy and asphalt areas allowing students to be physically active at recess times.
- We offer our students a comprehensive after-school sports program for grades 5 through 8 and we inform the families of other community-based sports programs available.
- We offer all students a family life/AIDS education program which includes the Catholic teaching regarding human sexuality and family values.
- We educate our students on health habits, proper hygiene, and safety hazards through ongoing health, nutrition, and substance abuse programs.
- We provide yearly screenings to identify possible health problems, e.g. scoliosis, hearing, and vision.

Cultural Goals:

- To stimulate an appreciation of the beauties of God's world and of the various components of our cultural heritage.
- To develop an appreciation of the fine arts.
- To encourage and help students develop their creative capabilities.

To achieve our cultural goals:

- We help the students see the beauty of God's world within and around them through the study of all areas of the curriculum.
- We provide opportunities for observation, exploration, and for self-expression through music, drama, and art.
- We provide opportunities to participate in extracurricular music and drama programs.
- We alert students to, and encourage them to attend, cultural events sponsored by the local community.

Community Service Goals:

- To help the students to develop a sense of belonging to and appreciation for their nuclear family, their school and parish community, their local, state, and national civic community, and their world community.
- To encourage students to exemplify good citizenship, and to become actively involved in improving the quality of the communities to which they belong.
- To help students understand that service to others, especially extending love and compassion to those less fortunate, is an integral aspect of their Christian faith.

To achieve our community service goals:

- We help students, through the teaching of selected curriculum and through extra-curricular activities, grow in their awareness of the various communities to which they belong.
- We promote participation in meaningful school, parish, and civic sponsored celebrations and service projects.
- We provide opportunities for all students to actively participate in the democratic processes of student government.
- We encourage the school staff and parents to actively review the school philosophy.