

OUR LADY OF LORETO CATHOLIC SCHOOL

I. A STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCHOOL

Our Lady of Loreto Catholic School exists to provide a Christ centered education of the whole child, respecting his/her dignity as created by God for God in His image. Nurturing the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical character of each child, the school forms children to be leaders in the community who proclaim Christ, who are faithful to His teachings and to those of His Catholic Church.

In the 2017-2018 school year, Our Lady of Loreto will open a preschool/pre-kindergarten program, as well as expand kindergarten to two classrooms with the intent to have two classrooms for each grade level, K-8, over the next decade.

II. CLIMATE

Our Lady of Loreto strives to be a Christ-centered community, weaving the teachings of the Church with the curriculum. As well, daily religion classes, morning and afternoon prayers, Lectio Divina, weekly Masses, weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and monthly confession set the framework and tone for the school's Catholic climate. In addition to these opportunities for growing in the faith, there are the many other events celebrated and honored from the liturgical calendar such as: reflecting on the life of St. Francis of Assisi with discussions on being good stewards of the many gifts of creation; celebrating the Feast of the Holy Rosary where families come together and pray the rosary communally; dressing as a favorite saint on All Saint's Day followed by activities and opportunities to learn about the communion of saints; reciting the novena for the Feast of Christ the King which includes a Eucharistic procession throughout the halls of the school; gathering with families of the school and parish for an evening celebration of St. Nicholas' Feast Day; praying the Stations of the Cross on Fridays in Lent, just to name a few.

As well, the call to service is put into action through cooperation with parish ministries and outreach programs such as: the St. Vincent De Paul Society food collection, the annual Giving Wreath gift collection program, Christ in the City feeding of the homeless event, Operation Christmas Child, winter coat collection, and the Gabriel House.

The teachers work with both the students and parents to help in achieving an integrated education for the child. Textbooks are a support for professional teachers, not a curriculum in themselves. Teachers and the principal ensure that the formation of their students include faith formation as well as rigorous academics.

III. PERSONNEL

There are 14 full time teaching staff members dedicated to the students, families and school mission, with half having completed or working towards their MA, and with a combined 175 years of teaching experience. The faculty heavily facilitates the teaching and learning experience within the classroom drawing from professional excellence and experience. Many of the staff offer additional programs outside of school hours, such as the Spelling Bee, Math Club, Robotics, Student Council, and Geography Bee. Their going above the requirements of their jobs demonstrates a high level of interest and commitment to the students. Weekly staff meetings and professional development days scheduled throughout the year ensure continued growth amongst the staff.

IV. STUDENT BODY

To date, the student body numbers 211, and is projected to double over the next 10 years.

Other student activities with the coordination of active parents include: the Academic Decathlon, Choir, Chess Club, Fun Run, Geography Bee, Girls on the Run, International Towne and Young AmeriTowne, Logic Club, Marian Club, Math Bowl, Robotics, Running Club, Speech, Spelling Bee, Student Council, Yearbook Club, Science fair, Talent Show, and the list grows as interest and the student body increases.

Our Lady of Loreto takes a student-centered approach which is why we also invest in providing art, music, physical education, foreign language and computer technology programs.

V. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Our Lady of Loreto stresses and encourages family and parent participation in various volunteer capacities, including: the carline, cafeteria help, playground monitors, library aides, athletic coaches, event coordinators, room parents, classroom events, fieldtrips, and serving on committees such as the School Advisory Council (SAC), the Home and School Association (HSA), the Marketing Committee and the Technology Committee.

VI. RELATIONSHIP OF THE SCHOOL TO THE TOTAL PARISH

The parish was founded in 1998 and the school opened for the 2013-2014 academic year. Within the last five years, the parish has supported two major capital campaigns to construct two buildings shared by the school and the parish with a focus on Catholic education and formation.