



St. Catherine of Siena School

See Christ in others. Be Christ for others.

November 6, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians,

October and November are traditionally the months when many schools hold their “Open House” for Pre-K, Middle School and High School. Although we did hold a successful Open House for our Pre-K Program, we do not hold a separate Open House for our middle school. In January, during “Catholic Schools Week”, we will host an Open House for all students interested in attending Saint Catherine of Siena School next year.

Some information about our middle school may be of benefit to you, and possibly to families that you know. If you do know of someone, who may benefit from an education at Saint Catherine of Siena Middle School, please ask them to contact Karen Gillis in Admissions at (781) 769-5354 X 262. We will be accepting applications for the 2009-2010 academic school year. You may want to share the following information with them as well.

- Among private, Catholic and public high schools, Saint Catherine of Siena School has an outstanding reputation. Last year’s graduates were accepted to the best private and Catholic high schools in the area. They acquired over \$50,000 in merit scholarships!
- Due to the Faith formation our middle school students receive, they are well prepared to be “servant-leaders” in their high school communities, and are actively sought out to be such leaders.
- Our students are extremely well prepared academically. Most of our students place in Honors or Advanced classes in their high schools. Some have tested out of freshman Math and Spanish courses.
- Classes in Math are leveled in Grades 7 and 8, so that each child is challenged. We are looking forward to extending the “Gifted and Talented Program” from Grades 4-8.
- Catholic and private high schools in the area actively recruit our 8th grade students. In their eight years with us they have developed confidence and the skills that position them to be leaders in their chosen high schools.
- We educate the “whole child”, spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally with particular emphasis on developmentally appropriate programs.

- Our middle school has a highly qualified and certified teaching staff, who are able to make accommodations for our students with learning disabilities in the classroom, as well as a team of special education professionals who are able to guide them and nurture them from Pre-K through adolescence.
- We provide a Theology and Service Program designed especially for middle school students. We assist our students in developing a healthy and vibrant prayer life. We expose them to a life of service to others through our “Matthew 25 Program”.
- Our curriculum includes technology that is integrated into the classroom through the use of laptops. In addition, the students have access to a state of the art Technology Lab.
- In order to form the “whole child” and to assist them in identifying all their God-given talents, our middle school students take music, art, physical education and research skills weekly. In addition, they have the opportunity to participate in the middle-school musical, basketball, cheerleading, student council and the Math Counts Program.

Finally, recent studies on the organization of grades support the model of education promoted here at Saint Catherine of Siena School. Dubbed, “The Elemiddle School”, these schools are K-8 environments with a separate building for the middle school. Studies have shown that students benefit from the academic continuum provided, the support young men and women find in the school community as they transition from childhood to adolescent, and a teaching staff specializing in the needs of both elementary school students and middle schoolers. Some studies show that students graduating from K-8 programs achieve academically, socially and emotionally better than those who did not have the same opportunity. In short, transitioning to a high school culture and environment at the age of fourteen can set the stage for a more successful high school experience.

I would like to thank-you for choosing a Catholic education at Saint Catherine of Siena School for your children. All of us take seriously our responsibility to see each child in our care as unique gifts from God, and to assist them in reaching their God-given potential. During the ten years that most of our students remain with us, they grow from pre-kindergarteners to adolescents. During these developmentally critical years, they form relationships with peers, adults and most importantly...God.

If I can be of any assistance to you or to your friends about middle school education or a middle school education at Saint Catherine of Siena School, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely yours,

Gretchen Hawley
Principal

