

RELIGIOUS PROGRAM

The religious dimension of the school is key to the Catholic Identity of St. Michael's School.

1. DAILY RELIGION CLASSES

Religion is taught 5 days a week. On days that students attend Mass, this counts as a Religion class.

2. RELIGION BULLETIN BOARD

Each classroom is to have a Religion bulletin board in a prominent place in the classroom. This board is changed regularly to reflect the changing seasons of the church year and topics covered in the Religion class.

3. NON-CATHOLIC STUDENTS

Non-Catholic students participate in all religious classes and activities of the school. In choosing the Catholic school, their parents are aware that they must participate in all aspects of our Catholic school life.

4. CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Since our school is a school of formation in the Catholic Faith, there are very specific things that we do to foster this process:

1. Visible signs and symbols of our Faith present in the classroom
2. Use of liturgical colors for the various seasons of the Church year -
Green - Ordinary Time
Violet - Advent
Purple - Lent
Red - Pentecost and celebration of martyrs
White or Gold - Easter and Christmas
3. Celebration of Church Feasts
4. Getting to know the Saints
5. Doing service for others
6. Preparing for the celebration of the Liturgy
7. Learning and reciting traditional prayers as well as participating in spontaneous prayer
8. Reciting and learning various scripture passages to learn the stories of our Faith
9. Building community in the classroom and being aware of the larger community
10. Learning various liturgical ministries - lector, server, usher, music
11. Participating in a variety of prayer experiences

5. ACRE TESTING

Each year, students in grades 5 and 8 take the ACRE testing to determine their knowledge of the Catholic religion. The classroom teachers administer the test.

6. SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Normally, students are prepared to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist at the second grade level. Sacramental preparation takes place as part of the parishes' Whole Community Catechesis Program.

7. FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM

St. Michael's School use a common approved Family Life Program throughout the school as a tool for facilitating parent/student instruction in human sexuality and respect for life. Family Life is taught during a designated trimester at all grade levels. Teachers send a letter home to parents prior to beginning this instruction.

8. PRAYERS

Prayers are an important part of our Catholic Tradition. Students are responsible for learning the standard prayers used by the Catholic Community during their time with us at St. Michael's School. .

9. SERVICE PROJECTS

Service is an important concept that we want our students to learn. As teachers are preparing long range plans, they are to include at least one service project as part of the plans. Teachers are encouraged to be creative and link service to the Religion Curriculum and other areas of the total curriculum.