

## SPECIAL CLASSES

Our students not only have the advanced learning environment within their classrooms to enhance their academic skills and knowledge, harvested by their classroom teachers, but the opportunity to learn through the teachings of Christ our Lord. Our students Preschool – 8th Grade are exposed to a wide variety of specialty areas increasing their opportunities to learn, grow, succeed and excel. These specialty areas include Music, Art, Spanish, Physical Education & Health, Band, Religion, Library and Technology, as well as progressive elective programs offered to our middle school students. Check out below to get introduced to some of these programs.

**Music** The music program compliments the student's academic development, provides spiritual nurturing, enrichment, growth and healing. It teaches appreciation of rich liturgical music, instruction on a music instrument, a recorder which impacts hand/brain coordination in an ensemble setting. Students learn to read and write music and attend Music Class one time per week. Our Music Teacher travels between both our campus locations and teaches all of our students.

**Art** is taught with a focus on art history, art production, development of the ability to describe and express your own feelings about a piece of art, and the development of the ability to criticize a piece of art constructively. Each grade level builds on the grade level prior. Vocabulary and techniques used increase in difficulty with the cognitive abilities of that grade level. Students attend Art Class 1 time a week. Our Art Teacher travels between both our campus locations and teaches all of our students.

**Religion** Our teachers are passionate about educating our youth about Catholic faith and living through Christian principles. Religion study focuses on God as our Father who loves us. We learn about Jesus as the Son of God who tells us about our Father. We also learn about the Holy Spirit who helps us to be holy. Students attend Mass 1 time per week and participate in prayer 3 times per day: at the start of school, before lunch and upon dismissal. Religious themes are woven into other subjects whenever possible. We also participate in personal, class and school stewardship projects throughout the year.

## MASS TIMES

*\*Preschool attends Mass only once per month*

*\*\*Our school Mass Times are open to the public and we encourage family and friends to join us when available.*

### Wauconda Campus

Preschool – 5th Grade – Wednesday 9:00am

6th-8th Grade – Friday 9:15am

### Mundelein Campus

Preschool – 5th Grade – Thursday 9:00am

**Spanish** Our students have a unique privilege to attend, learn and explore a foreign language and culture through their experience in Spanish class. Preschool-3rd Grade go to Spanish 1 time per week and progress to 2 times per week in 4th & 5th Grade. Youth at a young age are more susceptible to learn, understand and use second languages if given the opportunity, environment and education to learn. All students have this opportunity. As students continue to grow their second language skills throughout their time in 6th-8th Grade, most students result in accelerated language assessments and are able to enroll in 2nd or even 3rd year Spanish courses as they enter High School. Middle school students attend Spanish class 3 times per week. Our Preschool – 5th Grade Spanish Teacher travels between both our campus locations, in addition to our 6th-8th Grade Spanish teacher at our Wauconda Campus.

**Band Music Education Services** offers all children the opportunity to join the school band beginning in 4th grade. In September, students attend a performance during which all of the band instruments are demonstrated and explained. Students then have the chance to try two instruments as part of a hands-on exploration of their interests. Our Band students play several evening concerts throughout the year, combining with more than 150 other students from six local Catholic schools, and participate in both a solo festival and an honor band festival.

**Physical Education** Activities are planned to develop cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility all while having fun and learning new skills. A wide variety of fine and gross motor skill activities are introduced in a progressive fashion to enhance the overall development of and growth of the youth body. Preschool – 8th Grade students attend Physical Education class twice per week.

**Health Class** is introduced in 4th Grade and continues through 8th Grade. The fundamental goal of health education is to enable our students to use knowledge and develop skills that permit them to transform unhealthy habits into healthy habits. Our students are supported in their efforts to apply knowledge, attitudes and behaviors toward achieving wellness and maintaining a healthy life style. Health class is attended once weekly.

**Library** In our Libraries, an introduction to books is an important part of our curriculum. Students learn basic literary terms, including: author, illustrator, cover, spine, and pages, as well as how to check books in and out using an Electronic Database. A wide variety of stories and poems are read with the children. Library experience at our Campuses include an Accelerated Reader Program (AR) in which all books are labeled according to appropriate reading levels. Youth are tested using the S.T.A.R. Reading Assessment, as well as the RAZ Kids Program which also includes an assessment program. From there, the teachers have been able to assign reading level ranges and reading goals for the students. Weekly Library Sessions for Preschool-4th Grade include: a story read to the students, book search & find time, quiet reading and an opportunity to take assessments and AR quizzes.

Students in our 4th & 5th Grade classrooms participate in a Buddy Reading Program, in which they “buddy up” with our Kindergarten and 1st Grade classrooms to read together once per week.

Our middle school students use the library as a resource and tool for enhancing their learning and research, as well as a serene environment to supplement their literacy program.

**Technology** Our Preschool through 5th Grade students attend the Computer Lab and are provided the opportunity to learn basic computer skills and terminology: using the mouse and keyboard, opening and closing application programs, and saving their work. Older grade level students are introduced to programs that reinforce classroom lessons as well as introduce the students to fonts, word processing editing functions, and art tools. Technology usage is encouraged in the classroom daily.

Our middle school students are 1:1 Chromebooks. They are encouraged to use online resources, portals, email, internet, digital online materials and textbooks and programs to complete classroom work.