



St. Didacus Parish School

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ACCREDITED BY THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES
AND THE WESTERN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

School Profile • 2009-2010

Community

Serving the Greater North Park community for 70 years, St. Didacus Parish School was established in 1939 by the Holy Cross Sisters and later run by the Sisters of Mercy from Tuam County, Ireland. Our 285 students come from the surrounding neighborhoods of Kensington and Normal Heights and as far away as Chula Vista

and San Marcos. Representing a diverse economic, cultural, and ethnic population, our student body includes immigrants from Nigeria, Russia, Albania, Mexico, Ethiopia, Brazil, and Eastern Europe. While our students' families worship predominantly as Catholics, we also have students from a variety of other religions. Most of our graduates go on to Catholic high school. A high percentage of them continue on to college or a university, with many joining graduate programs. Alumni often return to the neighborhood as businesspersons, teachers, doctors, military personnel and technology workers. When they start families their children are enrolled at St. Didacus Parish School, continuing the tradition of excellence in spiritual and academic education.



Curriculum

Our curriculum follows the Diocese of San Diego Curriculum for Catholic Schools, which fully incorporates California State Standards. We teach Religion, Reading/Literature, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Health, Social Studies, Computer Skills, Music, Art and Physical Education. We have specialist teachers

in the areas of Art, Music, Physical Education, Library and Computers.

Philosophy

St. Didacus Parish School shares the common mission of Catholic education to proclaim the message of Jesus, to create Christian community, to worship God, and to serve one another and the world. Our school supports and enhances the parents' role as the primary educators of their children.

We engage students from all cultural backgrounds in a developmental curriculum promoting spiritual growth, academic excellence, and social responsibility. The school identifies its wider community as faculty and staff, students, families, parish, interested outside individuals and groups, neighbors and alumni. Within this dynamic, the young learner develops as a whole child, grounded in God's love, preparing to shape his/her life pattern of excellence, morality, service and commitment.

School

St. Didacus Parish School, kindergarten through 8th grade, is part of the Diocese of San Diego Catholic school system. Our daily schedule is 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Extended care is available from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and from 2:45 to 6 p.m.

Preschool

Preschool is available for children 3 to 5 years old, full or part time, on two to five day schedules. Our St. Didacus Preschool is fully licensed by the State of California.

Faculty

Our faculty is comprised of credentialed professionals who are dedicated to the ministry of educating children. Many hold, or are working toward, advanced degrees in education or their subject area.

Mission Statement

St. Didacus Parish School is a Catholic elementary school that engages with parents, community, and child in the ongoing educational development of the student. We empower the student to be spiritually, academically, and socially prepared to live today and tomorrow both morally and effectively.

ITBS Test Results

Our scores, in each grade and subject, are consistently at or above the 70th percentile range.

Student Learning Expectations

A St. Didacus graduate will be:

- 1) **A Christ-centered person who:** knows, respects, and values Catholic beliefs; respects and appreciates God's gifts; understands that moral choices have consequences.
- 2) **A life-long learner who:** uses information, technology, and media; learns independently and cooperatively; practices critical thinking, problem-solving, and computational skills; understands the value of hard work and perseverance; knows the importance of physical well-being.
- 3) **An effective communicator who:** reads for understanding; writes and articulates ideas correctly; actively listens; has experienced a wide range of activities in the fine arts.
- 4) **A responsible citizen who:** is reliable, trustworthy, and courteous; demonstrates an awareness of cultural diversity; learns and practices civic responsibility.



Special Focus

St. Didacus Parish School uses First in Math, a web-based, nationally utilized math program that students access from school and home. Students in grades 1 to 8 are provided with differentiated practice routines as they progress at their own pace through various modules, ranging from single-step addition to multi-step algebra.

High School Acceptance

Nearly all (91%) of our students who apply to a local Catholic high school (Academy of Our Lady of Peace, Saint Augustine High School, Cathedral Catholic High School and Mater Dei Catholic High School) are accepted for admission. Many of these students receive honors at entrance and are awarded scholarships. Students are commonly placed in honors classes.

Parental Involvement

The success of our students and school is due in part to a high level of parent involvement. Families are asked to give 30 hours of service a year to the school. Many do much more. Formal organizations include the Advisory Board, Parent Teacher Group (PTG) and the Development Committee. Parents participate fully in our three yearly fundraisers: SCRIP, Fall Festival and Auction.

Development

The St. Didacus Development Committee formulates and implements the long-range plan that allows the school to continue its mission. The Development team partners with the greater St. Didacus community to achieve success in areas such as capital improvements, technology, endowments and alumni relations.

Community Service

Heeding the Gospel's call to help others, St. Didacus incorporates community service into its daily life. Every class is involved in at least one community service project each year along with collections for the missions, food drives, giving tree and parish outreach. Local, national and international opportunities to help others also are provided for students.

Extracurricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities include: Student Council for grades 3-8, school newspaper, academic decathlon, team sports (soccer, football, basketball, softball), and math competitions. After school classes, some on a rotating basis, include chess, math enrichment, band, choir, Boy and Girl Scouts, art, dance, martial arts and drama. All are designed to help shape a child who is grounded in God's love and prepared to build his or her life following a pattern of excellence, morality, service and commitment.

Special Activities and Celebrations

Special activities and celebrations include: Monthly liturgies, weekly class Masses, full Sacrament Preparation Program, California Scholarship Federation, Field Day, Geography Bee, Grandparents' Day, May Crowning, religious assemblies, Christmas Program, Stations of the Cross, First Friday Adoration, Reconciliation, 6th grade camp, 8th grade retreat, Catholic High School Leadership Conference, Open House, daily hot lunch program, Missions education, and DARE.

Important Decisions

As a Catholic parent, one of the most important decisions in your life and that of your child is choosing the best educational path. Consider the following reasons a Catholic school is right for your child:

Catholic Schools:

- Have a proven record of academic excellence
- Work closely with you for the good of your child
- Continue the religious foundation of your children begun in your home
- Have clear and precise goals
- Provide a challenging atmosphere
- Maintain a secure environment
- Have educators who believe that all children can succeed (National Catholic Education Association)

