

St. Theresa School
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PHILOSOPHY

'I HAVE COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULLEST'
John 10:10

In TO TEACH AS JESUS DID, the bishops of the United States call us to enable men and women "to hear the message of hope contained in the Gospel, to base their love and service of God upon the message, to achieve a vital personal relationship with Christ, and to share the Gospel's realistic view of the human condition." It is through education that the Church carries out this mission to prepare its members to proclaim the Good News and to translate this proclamation into action. The Catholic School has the unique role to deliver the Gospel message, to build and experience community, and to grow in service to one another and the wider community.

We affirm that the parents are the prime educators of their children and, working with these parents, we strive for the individual growth of each student within a faith community. Together, we work to instill a sense of self-worth in each child, to prepare them for the demands of the future, and to nurture an ever growing faith life. Our goal is that students, parents, and faculty support each other in the journey to become a faithful person, a community person, a revelation person, a conversion person, a prophetic person, a sacrament person, and a person of growth.

The school is a faith community in which the parents, students, faculty, and priests are united in the everyday expression of our Christian faith. Being a Christ-centered community, we are committed to service to others and to our community.

Through Christian attitude and example, based on the Gospel message, we instill a viable knowledge and love of God. A personal intrinsic value system is our goal.

Therefore, we...

- develop a deep belief that God loves us and is living in and through us.
- present religion as a subject and a way of life.
- witness and share our Christianity .
- guide students and faculty to develop vital prayer lives by introducing them to various prayer forms and praying with them.
- provide opportunities to participate in sacramental liturgies and paraliturgical services.
- develop a consciousness of social justice and the needs of others.
- provide opportunities for outreach and community service.

We have the responsibility to create an environment in which each member can achieve maximum intellectual growth. Therefore, we . . .

- provide learning experiences that develop each student's unique, God-given, intellectual abilities.
- develop critical thinking skills so that students will evaluate what they read and hear, and to weigh decisions in the light of sound Christian principles.
- provide a balanced academic program, with an emphasis on moral development, in order to form spiritual and intellectual values.
- provide experiences in imaginative thought, problem- solving, decision making, and critical thinking.

- help students discover a love of learning while fostering self-direction and self-discipline.
- develop an awareness of human relations,-social change, and racial equality.
- provide opportunities to discover how to use their leisure time positively.
- continuously search for and utilize new materials, resources, and methods to assist learners to develop talents and abilities to the fullest.

We recognize the unique role of the Catholic School as a witness of Christian values. Our students need to see in us, and show to others, respect and concern for the individuals and groups within this community. Therefore, we . . .

- foster the Christian attitude of respect. . .
- foster leadership qualities of responsibility and accountability through student government, community, and school projects.
- provide cultural and recreational opportunities in which the students can interact with members of their own community and with other communities.
- provide activities that will foster a unity of spirit and efforts in working for a common goal.

We believe that the Catholic School should provide a climate where each student can grow to full potential psychologically. Therefore, we . . .

- help students acknowledge personal limitations, strengths, and behavioral patterns.
- guide the student in handling emotional stress through listening, advising, and encouraging.
- develop a sense of responsibility to oneself and to others and to aid the students in making responsible choices based on evaluation.
- teach each student to accept and to respond to the uniqueness of others.
- lead each student to positive thinking by emphasizing individual successes.

We provide an atmosphere where physical health, exercise, and good personal habits are developed. Therefore, we...

- encourage teamwork, sportsmanship, athletic skills, and school spirit in both the structured program and on the playground.
- recognize the benefits of exercise and good personal hygiene for enjoyment and life's enhancement.
- encourage good eating habits.
- develop a respect for life through the Family Life Program.

We believe that the Catholic School should help student, parent, and faculty move toward wholeness of spirit, mind, and body on our journey in faith throughout life.