

St. Jude
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



WHO WE ARE

Fast Facts

St. Jude Catholic School opened in 2009.

The Fire is introduced as St. Jude Catholic School's mascot in 2012.

LabLearner, the state-of-the-art science program, was added to St. Jude's curriculum in 2013.

Thanks to the support of our parish family, SJCS moved into our new school facility in 2013.

The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, began their mission in the Diocese of Peoria and, more specifically, St. Jude Catholic School in 2013.

Our Catholic Identity

St. Jude Catholic School's student body is comprised primarily of students from the Roman Catholic faith tradition. However, students from all faith traditions are welcome and regularly enroll. If you are non-Catholic and would like to speak with one of our non-Catholic school families, please let us know. We would be happy to make the connection. Our children participate in liturgies that include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Lectio Divina, the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Advent services, and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. As part of our school's emphasis on spiritual development, children experience many different kinds of service projects throughout the school year.

Our Learning Environment

St. Jude Catholic School provides a friendly, family-like atmosphere of learning for your child. Your child enters a community of learners that supports and nurtures holistic growth of mind, body, and soul. Our curriculum integrates each of these aspects into your child's day at school. Faculty, staff, and parents work to build positive relationships with and for their students, forming them with our Education in Virtue™ school-wide virtue formation program.

Our Faculty

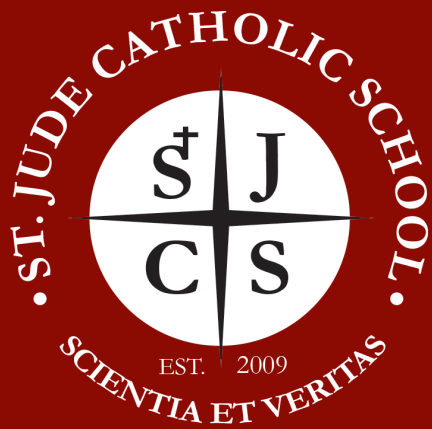
At St. Jude, our principal, Sr. Maria Christi Nelson, O.P., has assembled a wonderful team that includes classroom teachers, aides, and pre- and after-care teachers. This highly qualified group of professionals is committed to your child's academic success, spiritual growth and development, and overall personal wellness and holiness.

Our Religious Sisters

Women religious have been an integral part of Catholic education in the United States. St. Jude is blessed the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist chose our diocese and, specifically our school, for a new mission site in 2013. In addition to our principal, we are privileged to have three sisters serving as homeroom and religion teachers for our kindergarteners, second graders, and middle schoolers, sharing their love of Christ with our students, families, faculty and staff.

Our Families

In joining the St. Jude Catholic School family, you enter a community committed to building a caring, loving, and supportive environment for our children. This is evident in the way our families come together to support both the school and each other. There are countless volunteer opportunities to fit every schedule and talent you may have.



Spiritual and Moral Values

At St. Jude Catholic School, your child receives an education that is grounded in the Roman Catholic faith. Spiritual and moral development permeates the entire curriculum at St. Jude. Many non-Catholic families also benefit from the fruits of an education that focuses on the whole child: body, mind, and soul.

Catholic Doctrine

St. Jude Catholic School integrates Catholic Doctrine into all areas of the curriculum and into the culture of its school community. St. Jude's goal for students is to develop the growth and excellence of each child in the knowledge of the Faith so they fall in love with the Person of Jesus Christ. They will then be prepared to change the world as disciples of Christ.

Vibrant Academic Environment

The schools in the Diocese of Peoria participate in standardized testing, which provides continuous assessment of basic educational development in grades 2-8. St. Jude Catholic School utilizes NWEA MAP testing in the Fall, Winter, and Spring to form and inform teachers' instruction and to differentiate instruction in reading, language arts, and math. Our older students are also assessed in science. St. Jude offers Academic Interventions and Enrichment to students who qualify, providing individualized instruction to meet the needs of all.

St. Jude Catholic School prides itself on its:

✠ Service

St. Jude students model their dedication to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy each and every day. Through our "Service Sunday" ministry fairs and classroom service projects to benefit pro-life, the poor, or the sick and homebound, families can together explore meaningful service opportunities which benefit our parish and community at large. There are even opportunities to participate in service projects that have an international scope.

✠ Parental Involvement

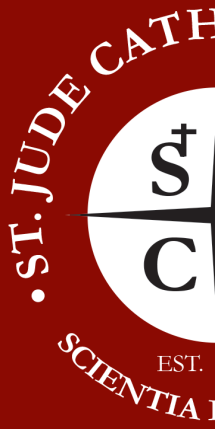
Parental involvement is a critical part of St. Jude family-oriented culture. There are many opportunities for parents to participate in the St. Jude school community in meaningful ways.

✠ Committed Faculty

All of our teachers at St. Jude are state certified. They are highly qualified, dedicated to Catholic education, and many hold a Master's degree or are currently pursuing that degree.

St. Jude CATHOLIC SCHOOL

is a Christ-centered, student-focused community,
enriching the whole child, serving God's kingdom,
while fostering academic excellence.



CURRICULUM

Christ-Centered

- Each school day begins and ends in prayer, and prayer is integrated throughout the day.
- All school Masses are celebrated weekly with weekly Rosary and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to nourish and grow the spiritual life.
- Religion classes are taught daily, teaching students to know and love Catholic doctrine and witness their faith in word and deed, supported by the *Education in Virtue*® program to show how to live out their Faith.

Student-Focused

- Curriculum is developmentally appropriate, challenging students to reach their highest potential.
- Teachers use differentiated instruction to engage students at their individual level.

Enriching the Whole Child

- Student's intellectual, spiritual, physical, social and emotional development is emphasized throughout the curriculum.

Serving God's Kingdom

- Catholic Social Teaching is a fundamental component of St. Jude as we learn to serve others in our school, our parish, the community and the world.

Fostering Academic Excellence

Students at St. Jude Catholic School:

- receive a solid foundation in reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies and STEM curricula;
- practice critical thinking, problem solving and computational skills;
- learn to appreciate the arts and participate in a dynamic music education program;
- become effective communicators who read for understanding, actively listen, write clearly and correctly, and speak effectively with confidence and poise;
- begin learning a foreign language (Spanish);
- know the importance of physical well-being;
- use information, technology and media to enhance learning.

St. Jude Catholic School offers a superior spiritual, cognitive, and social foundation that prepares students well for the next grade level. Focus on core skills in all subject areas and innovative teaching techniques keep students engaged in learning.

Virtue Formation and Discipline

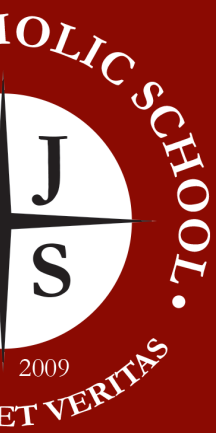
Students at St. Jude learn in a disciplined, joyful Catholic culture to live and love the virtuous life. The goal of the school is to instill the practice of virtues in all our students so they can form the habits and dispositions necessary to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. Growing in virtue, and therefore, happiness, is a hallmark of the education at St. Jude Catholic School utilizing the school-wide *Education in Virtue*® program.

Preschool Curriculum

St. Jude Catholic School's preschool program is based on the Illinois Early Learning Standards. Our programs offer a combination of traditional and Montessori-inspired approaches and implementation. Preschool activities support the development of early literacy and language, math, fine and gross motor skills, social and emotional development, practical life skills, and spiritual development. Weekly spiritual formation is offered in preschool with the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program.

Elementary Curriculum

St. Jude Catholic School is the parish school of St. Jude Catholic Church, and as such, is a Roman Catholic institution of the Diocese of Peoria. Thus, the spiritual, moral, intellectual, social and physical elements of education that it offers are taught within the context of the Catholic Faith. St. Jude Catholic School adheres to a well-balanced curriculum that includes (next page):



“Every day I know my children are being educated and formed with tremendous love and care at St. Jude, which is not only a gift for them, but us, as well.”

~ St. Jude Catholic School Parent

Religion. The Religion program at SJCS forms students in the Faith, giving them knowledge of the Truth. At St. Jude, we aim to instill a deep love and knowledge of the faith; love of the Church rooted in faith; formation of both intellect and will; participation in the life of the Church; awareness of and attention to social responsibilities; and development of a rich interior life. The students gain an understanding of the human need for God, learn to apply Scripture to life, use prayer daily knowing this is the primary way we grow in relationship with our Lord and are taught Catholic doctrine appropriate to their grade level, all brought to a culmination of how to live their faith by intentional formation in the virtues.

Science. The LabLearner program integrates chemistry, physics, life science, and environmental science into an elementary curriculum designed to provide the fundamental science content and develop conceptual thinking. It consists completely of hands-on observations, experiments and findings using scientific equipment.

Mathematics. The goal of math at SJCS is for students to achieve mathematical proficiency through mastery of math skills, concepts and processes. The math curriculum consists of concepts and skills taught in depth to allow for mastery with equal emphasis on conceptual understanding and fluency with skills. Use of a concrete-to-visual-to-abstract development of concepts helps to connect visual representation to problem solving, and emphasis is put on both multi-step and non-routine problem solving.

Language Arts. This broad curriculum includes reading, writing, listening, speaking, spelling, phonics, vocabulary development, handwriting and research. Each grade level curriculum emphasizes working with words, independent and guided reading, writing and communication skills. Beginning in kindergarten with phonemic awareness, decoding, pre-reading and reading, oral and written expression, the curriculum develops each year with spelling, reading fluency and comprehension, study of genres and themes, vocabulary development, handwriting, sentence structure, mechanics and grammar in writing.

Social Studies. The unique aspect of teaching Social Studies from a Catholic perspective is that the emphasis is placed on the dignity and sacredness of the human person. The students' perception of the world and its political, cultural, and religious dimensions will be shaped by the teachings of the Catholic faith with an emphasis on its social teachings. The curricular goal for Social Studies is to provide students with an accurate perception of the world and its political, cultural and religious dynamics.

Physical Education. Our goal is to teach students the fundamental importance of everyday movement through games and activity. Students learn a wide range of exercise, games and activities. Each class consists of a variety of warm-ups, group games, team sports, fitness activities, movement and motor skills.

Music. An integral part of our curriculum, students engage in active, hands-on learning activities rooted in several leading music education methods, including Solfege, Orff, Kodaly, and Music Learning Theory. Over their years at SJCS, students develop healthy singing techniques, learn to read and write music, play classroom instruments to prepare them for advanced instrumental studies, and actively participate in the music making process. We do not simply expose our students to music in hopes of fostering musical appreciation – we strive to equip them with actual musical skills. Our goal at SJCS is to help our students become competent musicians – musicians who are able to make music with their voices, on instruments, and in worship for a lifetime.

Beginning in fifth grade, students have an opportunity to explore and learn band instruments. After an informational meeting and instrument selections, students enjoy small group lessons. Entire band rehearsals are later added to help students learn ensemble playing.

Art. Each grade covers the art elements of line, color, shape and form, texture and pattern, and space according to their level. The areas of emphasis include drawing, self-expression, culture and history, artists, aesthetics and media exploration.

Foreign Language. Students at St. Jude Catholic School learn Spanish beginning in the 4-year-old program. Students start with basic Spanish greetings and words, songs and culture, and advance to reading and writing Spanish by the upper elementary grades.

“**St. Jude’s Education in Virtue®**
program is wonderful! Our
entire family has benefitted
from the virtues program.”

~ St. Jude Catholic School Parent



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Building God's Kingdom

At St. Jude Catholic School, Christ is the Reason for our school. He is the unseen but ever present Teacher. He is the Model of its faculty and the Inspiration of its students. St. Jude is the extension of the Church's work, of spreading the teachings of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Hence, the philosophy directs the school's total curriculum. We proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to promote the highest ideals, to encourage community service, and to prepare our students for the challenges of life in this culture.

Consistent with the Mission of Our Parish, our school strives to spiritually form your child by helping them:

✦ To Know Christ

Through formal religious instruction, as well as through the integration of the faith dimension into each and every academic subject area and social activity, our school strives to know Christ.

✦ To Love Christ

Through participation in the sacramental life of the Church, as well as through the constant guidance of the Holy Spirit within our community, our school strives to love Christ.

✦ To Bring Others To Christ

Through our witness, as well as in answering the call to serve and help those in need within our community and abroad, our school strives to bring others to Christ.

Spiritual Formation

The effectiveness of St. Jude's religion program relies upon daily support of religious beliefs and practices in the home. The religion program is the core of the curriculum at St. Jude Catholic School. Daily religion classes are directed toward instilling in students an understanding and appreciation for Catholic belief and practice. All students participate in classes and all religious events at St. Jude. Our beautiful school chapel is located in the junior high wing, where students may stop by to visit Jesus throughout the school day.

Each week students attend Mass (typically Friday at 8:30 a.m.) Students also attend special liturgies and prayer services for Holy Days of Obligation, special feast days, and other celebrations. The dates and times for St. Jude Catholic School Masses and prayer services are posted on the monthly school calendar and posted in the parish bulletin. Parents are always welcome to join the students and staff for Mass.

Through our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, students build deep, lifelong relationships with Christ. These lessons are offered in a dedicated space called the Atrium, a special place of prayer, work, and study. Using age-appropriate hands-on materials, students as young as three are engaged in activities based on Sacred Scripture and the Liturgy.

Prayer is a part of the daily routine at the beginning and end of the day, before and after lunch, and throughout the day. A variety of liturgies and types of prayer are offered for students during each liturgical season throughout the school year. Students participate regularly in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.





EXTRACURRICULARS & ENRICHMENT

Extracurricular Activities

In keeping with our philosophy to develop and nurture the whole child, St. Jude provides a number of activities and athletic opportunities. Students in appropriate grades are encouraged to participate in our extracurriculars:

Clubs & Activities

- Altar Servers
- American Heritage Girls
- Band
- Book Club
- Chess Club
- Choir
- Declamations
- Fall Theater Program
- Musical Theater
- Scholastic Bowl
- Spelling Bee
- Student Leadership Committee
- Student Newspaper

Athletics

- Baseball
- Boys Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Girls Basketball
- PPSA Soccer
- Track
- Volleyball

Enrichment

The Enrichment Program applies a cross-curricular approach to help students develop critical thinking, creativity and problem solving skills through a variety of topics and activities. Students in the Enrichment Program have the opportunity to use the tinkercad program for 3D printing projects, as well as engaging in a variety of activities for vocabulary building, spatial visualization, critical thinking and strategy skills. First through eighth grade students are selected to participate in the program based on teacher recommendations, MAP scores, class grades, and excellent conduct reports.

Our our STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) offers another source of enrichment for SJCS middle schoolers. Students participate in activities during the school day which offer early exposure to the health and engineering fields, inspiring them to become aware of their unique gifts and talents as they prepare for a career in the service of others. The application of our STEM program encourages students to leverage their gifts of collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking in a unique learning environment. This program is available to all students in fifth through eighth grades.





St. Jude
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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