

## Educating the Whole Child



**Art** is a universal language that encompasses all forms of communication to express a variety of viewpoints and ideas. By creating 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional art, students develop a repertoire for self-expression. Famous artists and art history are included in the curriculum. Students in Pre-K through Grade 5 attend class weekly. Students in Grades 6-8 may choose Art as an elective study and attend two classes each week.



**Information Technology** - Integrating technology into the curriculum is a priority at St. Francis. The school currently has 300 computers! Approximately 60 laptops are available for student use. We have 17 access points spread throughout the entire school so that all students and staff have a wireless connection. In addition, all of our teachers have an iPad (45) to aid in teaching and communication. We have a 1:1 iPad program and our middle school students receive ongoing instruction in the many uses and classroom interaction that this makes available to the student. Several classrooms have Smart Boards and projectors. Document cameras are available as well as overhead computer projectors. Encyclopaedia Britannica is accessible online to students both at school and at home. The school utilizes several internet filters such as Chaperon to block inappropriate web sites.

**Music** - PK-K attend weekly interactive classes. Music theory focuses on steady beat, simple rhythm, and voice. Grades 1-3 expand on PK-K knowledge of music theory with lessons that explore treble and bass clef as well as the identification and rhythm of notes. Grade 4 learns to play the recorder. Grade 5 studies composers and composition. Grades 6-8 can elect music as part of their curriculum and become involved in the world of musical theater.

**Spanish** - Grades 1-5 meet once a week. Spanish in the early grades develops the basic structure and common vocabulary of salutations and expressions of courtesy, identifying self and others, identifying colors and classroom objects. Grades 6-8 meet three times a week. Basic literacy skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are developed. Grammar is introduced including nouns, pronouns, verb forms, definite and indefinite articles, adjectives, singular possessive adjectives, and demonstrative adjectives.

**Stream** – Middle school students can choose STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Math) for one of their special classes. We focus on problem solving and cross curricular project based learning. Students engage in hands-on activities.

**Guidance and Counseling** - The goal of the school counselor is to promote the emotional well-being of each student for an optimum learning experience. The counselor is actively involved in classroom guidance, small group counseling, individual counseling, consultation and collaboration with parents and teachers, crisis intervention, Rainbows for all God's Children program, Roots & Wings Parenting Program, Bounce Program, Bullying Prevention, Sexual Abuse Prevention, Internet Safety, Good Falcons (1st grade), Drinking and Driving Awareness (8th grade), DARE (5th & 8th grades), Slick Tracy (6th & 7th grades).

**Media** - The media center serves as a school-wide resource center ensuring that our students and staff are effective users of ideas and information. It provides intellectual and physical access to information, provides instruction to develop information literacy skills and encourages interest in reading for a purpose as well as for life-long enjoyment. It offers assistance in selecting and using various print and non-print formats along with electronic technologies for learning. The media center houses 25,750 books and 1002 videos and DVD's. Students at St. Francis visit the media center weekly to check out books. The Media Center is the learning center of our school.

**P.E.** - The Physical Education program contributes to all phases of individual growth and development through movement and physical activities. Some learning objectives are the development of motor skills, game skills, total fitness, safety, good sportsmanship, desirable social standards and ethical concepts, and wholesome recreation for leisure time. All Kindergarten through Grade 8 students participate in P.E. or other physical activity daily