



*Grades 1-8*

## **The Continuing Development of God's Masterpieces, Grades 1-8**

Our Grades 1-8 program helps our children continue to develop spiritually, intellectually, socially, and physically from their primary years (Grades 1 and 2) through the intermediate years (Grades 3-5) to middle school (Grades 6-8). St. Francis Xavier School also works collegially with Bishop Verot Catholic High School to prepare students for future educational success.

### **Curriculum**

St. Francis Xavier School follows the Diocese of Venice Curriculum Standards.

**Religion:** The Religion program is the foundation for all other subject areas and is the reason for the school's existence. Our Catholic identity is evident throughout the school, and faith teachings are woven into each subject area. Daily prayer, catechesis, weekly mass, and service opportunities are vital aspects of children's spiritual development. As our students grow, their religion classes place greater emphasis on living our Catholic faith and the mission of St. Francis Xavier School: "To be like Christ in all that we think, do, and say, while experiencing the joy of learning."

**Technology** is an integral, and well-integrated, learning tool at St. Francis! In addition to our two computer labs, each of our classrooms has laptops for teacher and student use, an interactive whiteboard, and each of our teachers has an iPad for classroom use. We are equipping our classrooms with flat-screen TV's and Apple TV's to use in conjunction with the teacher's iPad. Our classrooms all have projectors that teachers can use with their laptop in daily instruction. Our newest technology addition is a 1:1 iPad program which was launched in September, 2013, beginning with Grade 6 and continuing each year through middle school. Students use iPads for classroom note-taking, for organization, for assignment completion and submission via gmail, for taking tests, and for many other educational purposes.

**Language Arts:** St. Francis uses an integrated Language Arts program encompassing all the language disciplines of reading, writing, spelling, grammar, phonics, speaking, listening, and creative and critical thinking.

(continued on back)



## Curriculum, cont.

**Mathematics:** This is a developmental and sequential program culminating in the study of Algebra in eighth grade. Math learning is enhanced through technology, manipulatives, and projects incorporating real-life experiences.

**Science:** The instructional program for science develops students' critical and scientific thinking processes as well as their knowledge of scientific principles in Earth, Life, and Physical Sciences.

**Social Studies:** This broad-based curriculum includes classroom and community-based experiences in geography, history, social justice, economics, citizenship, current events, Florida history, and world cultures.

## Specials Classes

**Art:** Beginning in PK3, the Art curriculum incorporates the fundamentals of drawing, design, sculpture, weaving, works of the great masters, and use of recycled materials to create works of art for school-wide and community display. Art is an elective for Grades 6-8 students.

**Music:** The emphasis in Music class is on appreciation and performance of various sacred and secular music genres, beginning at PreK3. Music is an elective for Grades 6-8 students. Other music opportunities include Chorus, instrumental lessons, and musical theatre productions every other year.

**Physical Education:** Begins in PK3 and continues through Grade 8 to offer a range of experiences in movement, body mechanics, simple games, sports skills, team and individual sports, and physical fitness.

**Spanish:** Instruction in Spanish language and culture begins in Grade 1 and continues through eighth grade. In the seventh and eighth grade years, study is more intensive to help students enter Spanish I Honors or Spanish II classes as freshmen at Bishop Verot High School.

**Video Production:** Offers Grades 6-8 students special learning opportunities in the basics of TV production, script-writing, daily prayer and news broadcasts, and experience as news anchors and/or production crew. Video production is an elective for Grades 6-8 students.

## Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities

Art Fun      Band      Beginner Chess Club      Boys' JV and Varsity Basketball, Soccer, and Volleyball

Chorus      Girls' JV and Varsity Basketball, Soccer, and Volleyball      Golf Team

Intermediate Chess Club      Instrumental music lessons      Lee County Spelling Bee      News Crew

National Junior Honor Society      Running Club      Student Council

