



The St. Ignatius Catholic School Experience

Early Learning Center (ELC)

- * 4 months to 2 years
- * We follow the Department of Human Resources licensing standards even though we are exempt due to our 501-3C, non-profit status.
- * High Quality Learning Program with age appropriate activities and daily lessons that focus on motor skills.
- * The learning environment is engaging and offers students developmentally appropriate materials and is arranged to promote independence and exploration based on children's different stages of development.
- * The teachers in the ELC are well-trained and are highly skilled in their interactions to fit the needs of every child. Daily they use: responsive language to engage all children in the classroom activities while fostering individual independence in our language-rich learning environment.
- * Low student to teacher ratio
- * Hourly cleaning (washer/dryer and dishwasher on-site to keep clothing and eating equipment clean)
- * Daily written communication/daily posts on Classroom Dojo and Instagram page
- * Building remains locked during the school day
- * All staff have been trained in 1st Aid and CPR
- * On-going professional development for staff in dealing with infants, toddlers, and human development
- * Cameras/ELC director monitor classrooms daily
- * Artificial play surface outdoors for toddlers/age-appropriate outdoor equipment

Preschool:

- 2-4 year old by September 10
- Parents can choose from two options: 5 full days or 5 half days
- Curriculum: Handwriting without Tears, Phonics First, Alleliu by Our Sunday Visitor for religion), Frog Street curriculum for math, language arts, and reading
- All 3K and 4K teachers are trained in Phonic's First which is an Orton Gillingham approach to literacy. Our 4K students enter kindergarten with a solid foundation in reading and can read levelized texts independently.
- We use the Star Early Literacy Program in 3K and 4K to identify students that may need intervention before struggling to read.

- Full-time guidance counselor to support classroom teachers/students have guidance lessons once per month
- Speech therapist available for intervention on campus for students with lisps or incorrect mouth formation to produce correct letter-sound relationships
- Occupational therapist supports students with motor skill issues
- Dance classes during the school day for 3K and 4K (Creative Dance Center)
- Tumble Time classes during the day for 3K and 4K
- Spring soccer for PK3 and PK4
- Building remains locked during the school day and the building is monitored by cameras
- We follow the Department of Human Resources student to teacher ratio ensuring that we have enough support staff to aid our preschool teachers and students
- Preschool students have outdoor time twice a day
- Preschool students have a designated nap time
- Future ELC and Preschool free-standing, state of the art building

Curriculum:

- General Curriculum:
 - The State of Alabama curriculum standards are followed for the teaching of all secular subject areas. U.S. Core Curriculum standards have been adapted for language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The curriculum is marked by current content and fresh approaches to methodology incorporating advances in technology. There is an emphasis on principles rather than facts and on learning through problem-solving. We strive to offer a program that uses multiple sources of reading material, a wide variety of technology tools, and a multi-text approach to the content areas.
- Handwriting without Tears (PK3-5th) - Multisensory techniques: and helps produce successful readers and writers. Helps students focus, improves fluency, and improves memory and academic performance. 5 grade
- Religion: Our Sunday Visitor (K-5) and grades 6-8 Sophia Institute - Develop appropriate texts, images, and lessons like all textbooks adopted to address multiple learning styles.
- Science/Social Studies/Religion-departmentalized in K, but self-contained in 1 and 2. We follow Social Studies and Science National imperative standards that

are taught through Language Arts time. K-2 students get 60 minutes of math and 120 minutes of Language Arts uninterrupted daily. Grades 3-5 get 60 minutes of uninterrupted math instruction daily and 110 uninterrupted minutes of language arts, reading, and phonics instruction daily. Grades 6-8 have 45 uninterrupted minutes of math, grammar, and literature daily. Grades K-8 utilizes the Saint Rose Reads Program to ensure that quality, classical literature is taught at each grade level.

- We utilize Phonics First as a supplement to the Pearson Savvas Series. We are the first and only school to do so in the Archdiocese and the Mobile County Public School System just adopted the Phonic's First Program for their system in 2019.
- Math Curriculum
 - Houghton Mifflin Harcourt My Math Curriculum in grades K-5 and Holt McDougal Math series in grades 6-8. All students in grade 7 take the Algebra Diagnostic Test in April. After taking the test, students will proceed into Algebra I for their 8th-grade year if they meet specific criteria.
- Latin in grades K-6 once a week for 30 minutes. Mrs. Susan Wright uses the Memoria Press Curriculum-Students are learning Latin roots which help them problem solve the meaning of unfamiliar words. Cognitive benefits are better when learned earlier.
- 7th and 8th graders have Latin twice a week for 45 minute with Mrs. Caroline McDonald who is also the 6-7 religion teacher. "Memoria Press' award-winning Latin programs are designed to teach students to master the Latin grammar through an easy to use, step-by-step process that brings out the logical and systematic nature of this language, the mother tongue of Western civilization. In studying Latin, students gain an academic vocabulary, a mastery of English grammar, and will develop the critical thinking skills that come from the study of a complex, inflected grammar.
- Physical Education Curriculum:
 - Physical Education program provides opportunities for leadership, teamwork, sportsmanship, skill development, and Christian behavior in the form of athletic competition, physical fitness, station work, lead up games, and games of low organization.
- Computer Literacy Curriculum:

- Word Processing, PowerPoint, Spreadsheets, and integration of Microsoft Office Suite and Google Suites with curricular subjects. A variety of educational software and programs is used throughout the curriculum in grades K-8 including coding and 3D printing in the intermediate grades and Ultrakey keyboarding in grades 2-8. We offer a Robotics Club, Computer Club, Studio 3650 Club as extracurricular activities.

K-5: Murray Building

- * Main lobby remains locked down during school hours to prevent intruders
- * Grades K-2 have iPad centers to aid in instruction/Grades 3 have lab top carts/grades 4-5 each have their own classroom sets of Chromebooks (students keep these at school to access their Google Classroom). There is no technology fee. Technology equipment is built into the budget.
- * Read-Write available on campus of dyslexia lessons during the school day
- * Extra-curricular music lessons offered by Mr. Steve Weiss during the normally scheduled music time (K-8)
- * Creative Dance Center offers dance lessons for K-3 during and following the school day on campus
- * K-2 full resource program for students struggling with reading and/or math
- * K-2 reading interventionist on staff to assist teachers with struggling readers
- * 3-5 resource teacher and program

Middle School Program

- Service & Virtue Education Curriculum:
 - Our school-wide service projects empower our students to make a sincere difference in the lives of others.
 - The Disciple of Christ, Education in Virtue® curriculum is a Christian curriculum structured on the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas regarding the virtues and gifts of the Holy Spirit. It aims to provide a consistent structure for instruction on the virtues to guide in the development of habits necessary to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.
 - By integrating the Virtues in Education, we are able to focus on the Cardinal Virtues that give our students the foundation they need for a successful life. The virtues of Temperance, Fortitude,

Justice and Prudence are extremely important to provide not only success but happiness.

- Middle School House System:
 - Each student that enters our middle school program is sorted into a house, which will be their home during all three years of middle school. Each of the five houses are named for Jesuit saints who all have a window in our new church. Houses allow students to create bonds within the student body and a connection to students who they might not otherwise get to know. Throughout the year, house games, house contests and the building of house points allows for healthy competition and a building of school spirit. These programs also allow for the building of leadership skills and our students know what it is to strive to be the best version of themselves they can be.
- Daughters of Mary, Young Men of St. Joseph, LifeSavers, Junior Life Teen opportunities to strengthen prayer life and be servants to those in need
- Students in middle school are fully immersed in academic work to prepare them for high school. There are eight separate periods involving class changes similar to what the students will experience in high school.
- We operate on a one-to-one iPad program that allows a student access to their iPad during school hours. This better prepares our students for the more computer based world that is ahead. These students are offered collaborative classrooms and learning environments. The school provides the iPad at NO additional cost/fee to the parents.
- National Junior Honor Society is available for qualifying students in middle school. Acceptance is based on a minimum GPA of 90% or 3.5 or higher.
- Scholar's Bowl and Science Bowl Teams, Yearbook and Recycling Club, and Student Government Association for grades 5-8.

Measurements of Academic Success:

* In the administration of the ITBS in August of this year 2 weeks after students returned from being out of school for almost 5 months our current 8th grade class scored the following:

- * Reading = 9.1 grade equivalent that is 1 year and 3 months ahead of national average.
- * Math = 8.4 grade equivalent that is 6 months ahead
- * Social Studies and Science = 9.5 that is 1 year 7 months ahead of national

Average

- * Overall complete composite score of a 9.2 grade equivalent which is 1 year and 4 months ahead of national average.
- * Data folders on every child in grades PK3-8th grade that contain growth and testing information from year to year. Teachers utilize this information to gear their individualized instruction to each student at the beginning of each year and share with the next year's teacher to ensure that we are meeting the needs of each student and providing individualized instruction.
- * ITBS testing in grades 2-8 in the spring of each year
- * Moby Max in grades K-8: The school invests in this individualized computer program that is used for students that need intervention as well as gifted students that need additional challenges in different subject areas.
- * Star Reading Program monitors student growth from quarter to quarter in their independent reading range. This allows us to make sure our students are excelling and not remaining complacent in their growth.
- * Accelerated Reader Program for 2-8 grades
- * Math Counts team for grades 6-8

Other Highlights:

- Full-service cafeteria offering home cooked meals daily for grades PK3-8. Mrs. Barnett provides healthy, organic meals daily as well.
- Automated library and media center that links information sources with instructional programs on campus and fosters a love of reading. Students in K-8 visit once per week to check out books and participate in interactive lessons from our certified media specialist.
- 21st century science lab for hands-on laboratory experiences
- All teachers and staff members have completed ALICE training (to know what to do in case of an intruder on campus), 1st Aid/CPR
- All buildings are equipped with an AED defibrillator and wheelchairs
- Full-time guidance counselor that offers classroom guidance lessons once per month
- Rainbows Support Program for children who have suffered a death in the family, are experiencing a divorce situation, separation, or other tragic events
- All students in K-8 have art, music, computer, and Latin once a week

- Assemblies/Plays/performances - Thanksgiving/Christmas/3rd grade play, PreK Thanksgiving, 1st Grade Patriotic Palooza, Christmas program
- 22nd century technology: All classrooms are outfitted with interactive Smart Boards, dynamic sound fields to ensure a surround sound quality of the teacher presentation, 3D document cameras for teachers to project objects to aid in their instruction, and Apple TV's.
- All students 1-8 have PE daily
- All students K-8 have outdoor activity time daily
- After School care Program from 2:45-6:00 PM daily (ELC-8th grade). Snack and drink are provided. ASC teachers provide assistance with homework daily (where applicable).
- Summer Care Program for ELC-8th grade (7 AM until 4 PM daily)
- CYO Athletics for grades K-8: football, basketball, soccer, tennis, volleyball, and cheerleading.
- Safety: Cameras are outfitted throughout the entire campus and are monitored daily. All cameras record to a DVR. All classrooms are outfitted with E-keys that allow classroom teacher to lock the classroom door from the inside.
- Once a year fundraiser – Impala Gala
- School Advisory Council and Parent Teacher Organization to assist in school development and ensure effective parent-school communication and growth of productive partnerships.
- Parent-School communication: Weekly Impala Informer, Parent Portals in all grades, Class DoJo in ELC-1st grade, Google Classroom in grades 2-8



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