



Hearts and Minds.

A Mission.

A Ministry.

A Community.



A photograph of a church interior. The scene is dominated by a large, arched stained glass window on the left, which features a central circular medallion with a figure and a book. The window is set within a series of arches that recede into the distance. In the foreground, the top of a dark wooden pulpit is visible. The lighting is warm and soft, highlighting the textures of the stone and wood.

# Welcome


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Photography courtesy of JRGeoffrion.com



*Welcome to Sacred Heart School. We are a community of faculty, parents, and staff dedicated to educating the hearts and minds of children from Junior Kindergarten through 8th grade. Our mission is “to provide an exemplary Catholic, faith-based and competitive education within a close-knit, loving community.”*

There are three important components to this mission. As a school, we hold ourselves to the high academic standards that our children require to be successful lifelong learners. As a pillar of our parish, we instill the values of our faith so that our children grow spiritually as well as intellectually. As a community, we work in partnership with parents to surround our students with people who care about them and their future.

Families came together with the united purpose of educating hearts and minds when Sacred Heart School was founded over 100 years ago. We renew that purpose each year, incorporating new tools and resources to ensure that we continue to fulfill our mission amidst the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century.





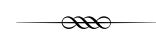
# Academics

*Sacred Heart School's academic programs are designed to stimulate intellectual curiosity, develop critical thinking, and foster the desire for lifelong learning.*

The core curriculum is focused on reading, mathematics, physical sciences, social sciences and religion. This core curriculum is supplemented with courses in Spanish, art, music, technology integration, and physical education.

As a unified elementary school, we offer the appropriate teaching methods for each age while also providing the continuity to support their many academic transitions.

We work to create an intimate learning environment, where each child's learning style is taken into account. Students are challenged to make the most of their cognitive skills and to constantly prepare for the next level of academic achievement.



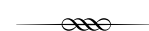
Stimulating.  
Developmental.  
Inspiring.

# Faculty



*Our caring and dedicated teachers are a critical part of what makes Sacred Heart special. We have over 25 full-time certified teachers, with additional part-time faculty. They bring us diverse expertise united by the shared commitment to motivate and inspire our students to reach their full potential.*

These educators bring a broad range of experience to our school. By design, they include a combination of veteran and new teachers in order to balance deep experience with new ideas and energy. The classroom teachers are supported by special teachers in Spanish, art, music, physical education and technology. Full-time learning, reading and math specialists support our students, and a part-time social worker helps meet the needs of our student body.



Experienced.  
Expert.  
Collaborative.

Our faculty believes that it is important to continually advance the quality of our academic programs. Staff development is critical to ensure the professional growth of the faculty and the school. Teachers are encouraged to attend multiple educational workshops each year. As one example, we undertook a multi-year program with National Louis University, one of the leading graduate teacher education institutions in the country, to help us incorporate the latest best practices into our reading and math programs. Other seminars and workshops work to keep our faculty abreast of best practices in their respective disciplines.

*About half of our full-time instructors have Master's degrees, a higher percentage than most comparable schools at this level.*

Our teachers are sensitive to the learning needs of each child. They collaborate within and across grades to track individual progress, and to work effectively with the talents and challenges of each student.

Each of our teachers is dedicated to the principles and ideals of Catholic education. They strive to create an environment of learning, as well as an environment of love and caring. Through example and instruction, they help our children put our ideals into practice throughout the school day.



# Curriculum

Standards-Based.  
Student-Centered.



*The Sacred Heart curriculum is designed to stimulate intellectual curiosity, develop critical thinking skills, and nurture the desire for life-long learning.*

To achieve this, our teachers shape the curriculum to meet the different needs of our students as they progress through each level of learning. The content, techniques, and structure employed in each grade are designed to reflect their changing capabilities and prepare them for the next level of learning.

Our curriculum is rooted in a base of rigorous academic standards. The foundation for these standards is set by the Archdiocese's Office of Catholic Schools. These standards detail specific learning goals by subject for each grade. They were constructed to fulfill both State of Illinois standards, as well as the standards set by the respective teacher associations for each major subject area (e.g. the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics, National Science Teachers Association, etc.). It is enhanced by our own standards for challenging each student to fulfill their fullest academic potential.



## Junior Kindergarten & Kindergarten

Our earliest programs prepare young students to thrive in a structured learning setting. A warm and nurturing environment develops the child's confidence and comfort in their ability to learn.

The Junior Kindergarten is a half-day program built around the development of social, language, math, and motor skills. The children are given ample free-choice time within a structured class schedule so that their natural love of learning is incorporated into their transition to student life.

*Sacred Heart is one of the few schools in the area to offer a full-day Kindergarten that further prepares students for their learning journey.*

The curriculum continues to develop social, language, and math skills. It also starts to expand into reading readiness, writing, and science. These young students work independently, with small groups, and in whole class exercises in order to expose them to different learning environments. Each Kindergarten student is matched with a 4th Grade Buddy to connect them with the older students, and with their own future development path.



## Primary (grades 1-2)

The primary grades provide students with the opportunity to complement their basic skill development with critical thinking skills. For example, while Language Arts continues to build on growing vocabularies and phonic mastery, it also introduces the idea of questioning, challenging, and summarizing what they read. This approach is reflected in all their subjects, as they expand on both what they know and how they put that knowledge to work.

The full curriculum is in place by the primary grades, including reading, math, physical science, social science, Spanish, art, music and religion. The Math Center supplements the basic math instruction by emphasizing the use of verbal interaction and manipulative activities. As students progress through the primary level, they evolve into independent readers. This gives them the ability to individually pursue knowledge and enjoyment of all subjects in the grades ahead.

## Intermediate (grades 3-5)

These grades entail a multi-year transition that prepares them for Junior High. The intermediate grades continue to advance academically and to develop positive personal learning habits. Teachers help students to develop more organizational skills, responsibility, and accountability in their work.

Academically, students move along a steady path of more complex thinking in all subject areas. Language Arts introduces the literature strand that exposes students to longer novels and literature that require higher-level comprehension skills. Different writing formats are explored, as well as the planning, proofreading, and editing process of more complex writing forms. Mathematics moves from simple mathematical functions to more problem-solving applications. Science incorporates the study of natural systems. Social Studies augments the study of culture and geography with discussions of history and government.

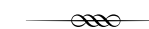
During these years, they are introduced to departmentalized teaching, switching classes for different subjects with different teachers. Supplemental instruction in life skills is provided in conjunction with Family Services of Winnetka/Northfield. Together, all these programs help our students make the challenging transition from childhood to adolescence.

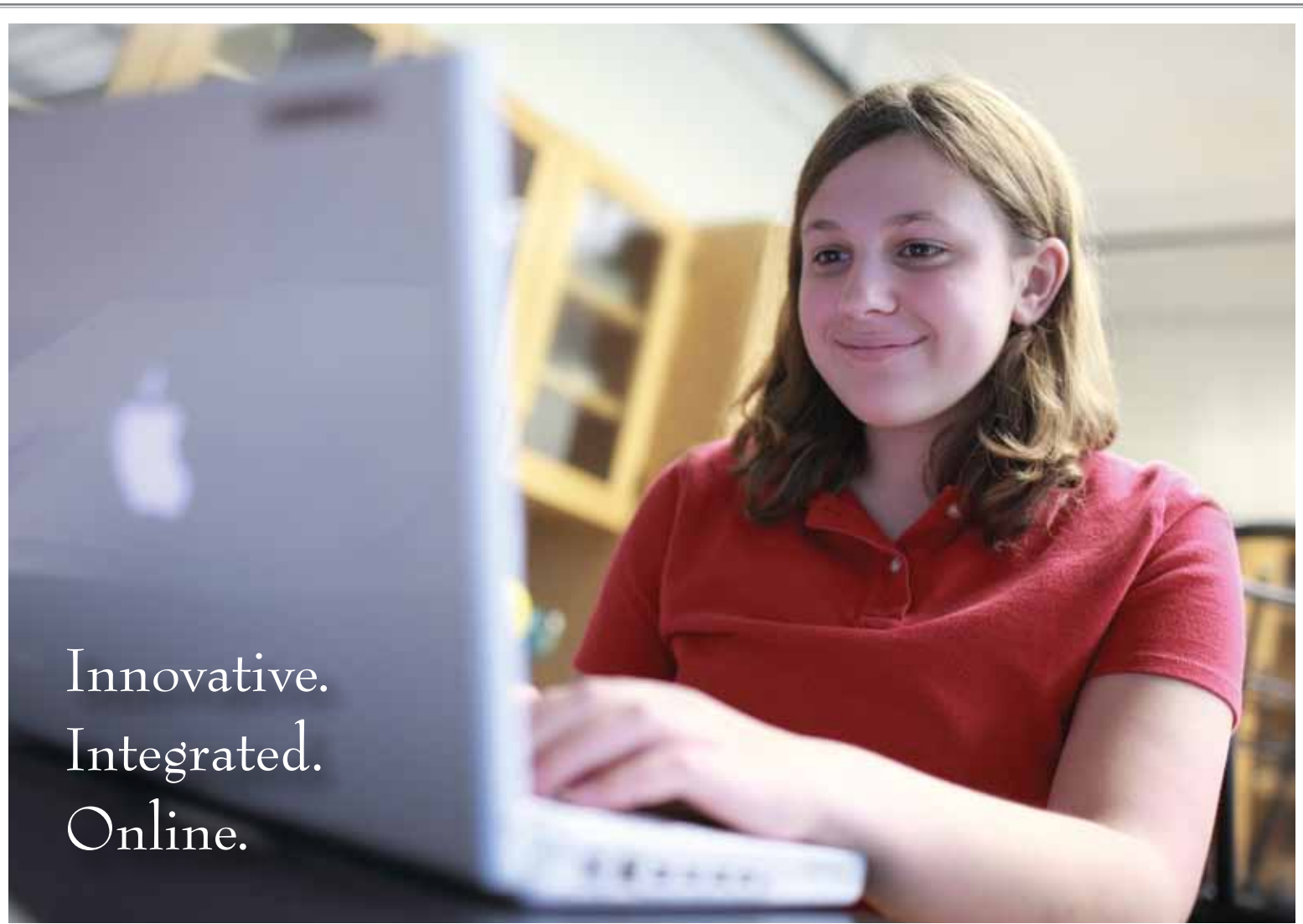


## Junior High (grades 6-8)

Junior High is designed to prepare our students to move on to a successful high school learning experience. Students work through assignments and projects of increasing difficulty across all subjects. Their accountability, responsibility, and organizational skills are further developed as they successfully complete numerous, challenging, and contiguous assignments.

Language Arts incorporates a four-modality approach of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students gain experience across a variety of literary formats including novels, non-fiction, essays, poetry, research, and short stories. Mathematics builds toward the mastery of algebra in 8th grade as part of a higher effort to learn the logical, critical and analytical problem-solving processes. Social Studies extends the study of world and US history, while exploring the study of current events and independent research into their understanding of the wider world around them. Science continues to advance their knowledge of natural systems while introducing them to the scientific method through hands-on experiments in a laboratory setting. Our students graduate with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in a competitive learning environment.





Innovative.  
Integrated.  
Online.



## Technology

*We live in an increasingly technology-driven world, so it is critical that our students are proficient with the tools that will play an increasing role in their lives. Led by an Apple Distinguished Educator, Sacred Heart's award-winning technology programs have been cited as a model for elementary schools. Our educators are regularly asked to consult with other local schools on their technology programs.*

Our computer lab gives us a state-of-the-art resource to introduce our younger students to the proper use of basic computer applications. Among the many activities, they learn how to assemble an interactive report, construct a podcast, and conduct Internet-based research.

Technology is integrated into the curriculum in several ways so that students naturally learn to use it appropriately and productively. Each classroom has iMac computers to assist in the delivery of in-class programs and lessons. Multimedia Smart Boards help teachers make class lessons interactive and dynamic. Students link to the SchoolTown website program to get a list of their daily assignments.

*Starting in 6th grade, all students receive their own MacBook laptops to use for class activities and assignments. In these and other ways, technology becomes a natural part of each student's development.*

The use of technology is not limited to the students. Our PowerSchool application allows parents to get real-time information on their child's progress by subject. Between meetings with teachers, parents can check on their child's homework assignments, test scores, and overall class grades. In this way, technology helps us keep an open dialogue between parents, students, and teachers.



## Academic Achievement

We look at several measures to track the progress and success of our students. First among these is the individual assessment by each teacher. Whether in the form of report cards or parent-teacher conferences, this is the best gauge of your child's progress. In addition, starting in 3rd grade, students participate in the TerraNova standardized achievement testing. The TerraNova test, published by CTB-McGraw Hill, is widely used by both public and private schools across the United States. Besides the Archdiocese of Chicago, the test is used by 40 other school districts in Illinois, and in 21 other states.

*Sacred Heart's standardized test scores for grades 3 through 7 regularly place us in the top 10% of schools in the nation.*

We also monitor our graduates' high school experience to ensure we are preparing them for success beyond our walls.

*Based on recent years, Sacred Heart graduates qualify for honors courses at the same or better rate as their peers from the other local elementary schools. In addition, the majority of our students regularly test out of freshman level courses in math and language.*

It is important to us that our students continue to meet or exceed these high standards.



Discovery. Passion. Fun.

# Extracurricular

*Through the efforts of our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), Sacred Heart offers special enrichment courses across an array of topics. These courses are not graded, and are designed to let students explore different interests outside the standard curriculum.*

The enrichment classes are offered after school by individuals and organizations with external expertise. Enrichment classes are offered in the Fall and the Spring and vary based on student interests. Typical enrichment opportunities include areas such as:

- Visual Arts
- Crafts
- Culinary Arts
- Science
- Drama & Dance

Regardless of the specific courses, enrichment classes offer another way to instill the love of learning in our students.



## Athletics

The athletic programs at Sacred Heart fulfill our mission by providing another venue for students to develop physically and emotionally in a supportive environment. The sports programs teach our students important lessons about teamwork, effort, and healthy competition. It is also a great source of school spirit, as anyone attending one of our games can testify. We field 20 interscholastic teams for girls and boys, including:

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Football
- Track / Cross Country
- Cheerleading
- Golf

With a few exceptions, most interscholastic sports start in the 5th grade. A variety of intramural sport activities are offered to our younger students in the lower grades.

We insist that our sports programs operate within the purpose and spirit of Sacred Heart School. There is a spot for every child who wants to play on a school team. All coaches go through a background check with the Archdiocese and complete VIRTUS training. Both students and coaches are expected to act with sportsmanship at all times. Through these programs, we teach our students to be winners in the best sense of the word.



## Music & Drama

In addition to the extracurricular activities mentioned above, we have special programs in the performing arts.

The Junior Tower Players put on an annual performance for the Sacred Heart community. Participation is open to all students who commit to the rehearsal schedule. The performance is constructed to provide as many roles as possible for as many age groups as possible. Students learn the basics of dramatic performance and stage management while having lots of fun.

Sacred Heart also partners with other local Catholic schools to support a full orchestra band. Starting in 4th grade, individual instruction is mixed with group rehearsals for those students wishing to learn a musical instrument. There are two band performances a year, as well as voluntary individual performance competitions.

These special programs give our students an additional path to explore their talents and interests.



Teamwork. Fitness. Spirit.

## Faith Works

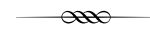
*The mission of Sacred Heart demands that we be more than an excellent school. We are also a ministry of the parish, helping our students to develop a life of faith and works as they grow into their role as contributing members of the church.*

The principles of our Catholic faith are integrated into the school. Religion class teaches that Jesus was sent to show divine goodness and human potential for good. The Salvation history unfolds through the study of Hebrew and New Testament Scriptures. Students are encouraged to develop a personal relationship with Jesus by studying the elements of our faith and by serving the community. Basic concepts of social justice are emphasized.

Students attend Mass together once a week, with different grades taking turns to plan and lead participation in the services. Preparation for the sacraments is included at the appropriate grade levels, including:

- 2nd Grade: First Reconciliation and First Communion
- 8th Grade: Confirmation

Multiple school-wide service projects throughout the school year give our children the opportunity to develop a committed faith that touches the heart. Students are welcomed into a warm, nurturing environment where they are expected to treat each other with respect and kindness.



## Participation & Involvement

*We like to say that children don't join Sacred Heart School, families do.*

Throughout its history, parents have played a vital role in fulfilling the mission of the school. Active parent participation creates a mutually enriching experience, strengthening both the school and the families.

There are numerous opportunities for parent involvement in the school. The School Board, PTO, and Athletic Committees are parent-led groups that help ensure parental input for all the programs the school offers. Other committees and roles provide a chance for every parent to participate in shaping the Sacred Heart experience for their children.

Numerous social functions and gatherings throughout the year reinforce the bonds of community that enrich the Sacred Heart experience. Whether it is Candles and Carols sweetly ringing in the Christmas holiday, or Nite Lites kicking off the best party of the year, we undertake our shared mission with camaraderie, fun and laughter.



*Parents*

## Contact Us

*We would be delighted to help you learn more about Sacred Heart School.*

We invite you to visit the school, meet with the principal, or talk with current school parents about their experiences.

To arrange any of these, you can contact us via the following:

Sacred Heart School  
Website:  
[www.sacredheart-winnetka.org](http://www.sacredheart-winnetka.org)

Phone:  
847-446-0005

Address:  
1095 Gage Street  
Winnetka, Illinois 60093

Email:  
[shs@sacredheart-winnetka.org](mailto:shs@sacredheart-winnetka.org)





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