



## *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School*

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Thank you for your interest in *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School*, home of the Timberwolves! Many opportunities await the students of *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School* academically, spiritually, socially and physically. Through these opportunities, rooted in the tradition and teaching of the Catholic Church, *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School* students develop skills that prepare them for life and service to others.

It is an exciting time to be a part of the new *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School!* In the fall of 2004, St. Francis of Assisi Parish assumed the administration of the elementary portion, grades Jr.K – 8, of the St. Benedict at Auburndale campus. *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School* is utilizing all of the buildings on the previous St. Benedict at Auburndale campus, including our brand-new classroom building.

To be placed on our waiting list, return the completed and signed application form, transcript release form, and a \$50 non-refundable application fee. Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Susan Fetz, Director of Admissions, at 388-7321.



## ***St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School***

***2100 North Germantown Parkway***

***Cordova, TN 38016***

***(901) 388-7321 FAX (901) 388-8201***

### ***PASTOR***

***Msgr. Peter P. Buchignani***

### ***PRINCIPAL***

***Mrs. Beth York***

### ***ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL***

***Mrs. Vicki Boyd***

### ***ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL PLUS/Enhance***

***Mrs. Mary Annette Keating***

### ***THE SCHOOL***

***St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School*** is a co-educational preparatory school of the Catholic Diocese of Memphis. The school offers traditional and special-learning educational programs for students in grades Jr.K - 8.

### ***HISTORY***

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Smith founded the institution as The Auburndale School System in 1966. Their focus was to develop an academic environment where children with all levels of learning ability could be educated on the same campus. Mr. and Mrs. Smith sold The Auburndale School to the Catholic Diocese of Memphis in 1988. St. Benedict at Auburndale opened its doors as a new diocesan school in the fall of 1988.

The Diocese of Memphis announced in the spring of 2000 that St. Francis of Assisi Parish would assume governance of the St. Benedict at Auburndale elementary school, grades Jr.K - 8, effective with the 2004 -2005 school year. ***St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School*** opened its doors as a parish school in the fall of 2004.

### ***ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIP***

***St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School*** is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The school is a member of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), Memphis Association of Independent Schools (MAIS), Tennessee Association of Independent Schools (TAIS), National Association of Secondary School Principals, Southern Association for College Admission Counselors, the Parochial Athletic Association (PAA), the Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) and the International Dyslexia Association.

### ***MISSION STATEMENT***

***St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School***, a private, co-educational, Elementary/Middle School serving children in Jr. Kindergarten through Eighth Grade, is a member of the Catholic Diocese of Memphis. ***St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School***, with its proud Roman Catholic heritage, is committed to promoting academic excellence, individual responsibility, and spiritual awareness among our students so they may live more fully in relationship with God and others.

# *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School*

## Early Childhood

Class size in Junior Kindergarten is approximately twenty students and class size in Kindergarten is approximately twenty-two students, with a certified teacher and assistant assigned to each class. Classes meet five days per week from 7:50 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Students in the Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes obtain cognitive preparation, develop social skills and physical coordination, and build independent learning skills, utilizing developmentally appropriate techniques. The learning approach is multi-sensory, using computers, field trips, guest speakers, maps, and globes. *Placement in Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten is based on developmental readiness.*

St. Francis's early childhood daily program includes, language, math, religion, recess, centers, story time, and special activities, which include physical education, music, art, library and Spanish. We teach science and social studies through weekly themes and teach basic skills such as letter recognition, letter sounds, money, time, handwriting, and addition and subtraction readiness. Learning through play and table work encourages the child to not only learn cognitive skills, but also manners, patience, cooperation, sharing, and awareness of the feelings of others.

The Open Court Series is used for developmental reading and language. It is a phonetics based program to set the foundation for reading and vocabulary. Growing with Math, by Wright/McGraw establishes the recognition of numbers, introduces addition and subtraction, and introduces mathematics applications. The Pearson Religion Program is used to instill a love and understanding of God and Bible characters, to emphasize the importance of Jesus in our daily lives and to teach the basic prayers of our Church.

## Grades 1-6

Class size is approximately 22 students in grades one through six. Classes meet from 7:50 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The curriculum in these grades is based on a sequential approach, and includes religion, language arts, reading, mathematics, science and social studies. The Open Court reading program continues, and students also participate in the Accelerated Reader Program. The sequential program is strong preparation for the advance placement classes in junior high. All students in the elementary school participate in weekly art, computer, library, music, Spanish, and "hands on" science classes. Students take physical education classes twice a week and students participate in a wide variety of field trips.

**Religion** - The Pearson religion program is used in grades one through eight. Students develop a deeper relationship with God and the Catholic Church. Second grade focuses on the study and completion of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Based on this foundation, the program continues through the eighth grade and develops the sacraments, scripture, morality and a basic understanding of the Catholic Faith.

**Language Arts** - The Open Court Collection for Young Scholars program utilizes a whole group learning approach. It is very firmly grounded in phonics in the early grades and develops reading ability through the study of a rich variety of literature. Students are encouraged to express themselves daily in creative writing. Open Court offers challenges to students who are capable readers, as well as to those who require more assistance. Vocabulary Workshop is introduced in the fifth grade and is a successful tool for guiding systematic vocabulary growth and developing vocabulary skills. It includes vocabulary for

comprehension, grammar in context, definitions, synonyms and antonyms, word associations, and word families.

**Mathematics** - *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School* currently uses the Sadlier Oxford Progress in Math Program. This unique program integrates many areas of study. Students learn basic math concepts and calculations that reinforce the curriculum in other areas. The program utilizes computer technology and builds strength in the student's deductive reasoning skills.

**Social Studies** - The MacMillan/McGraw Program is developmental in approach and integrates instruction on a variety of levels throughout the curriculum. It promotes the development of good citizenship, tells of the great men of history and their positive character traits, map skills, and the importance of caring for our world.

**Science** - Grade two uses the SRA/McGraw Hill Program, grades three and four use the Harcourt Science Series, and grades five and six use the Holt Science series. We have a "hands-on" science program that builds and grows on the process of science, unifying concepts of science, habit of mind and science in society.

## Grades 7 and 8

The seventh and eighth grades meet from 7:50 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and class size is approximately 22 students. Every teacher is certified in his/her area of specialty, allowing a team approach to teaching. When changing classes, students move to the teachers, in an effort to introduce the high school environment.

All students participate in Spanish class and a variety of special interest or exploratory classes and after school programs such as art club, chess, drama and forensics. These enrichment programs enhance and extend classroom experiences. Physical education classes are offered twice a week, while the intramural sports program stresses team-building skills.

Qualified seventh grade students may be offered the opportunity to take Pre-Algebra and qualified eighth grade students may be offered the opportunity to take Algebra I. Sadlier Oxford is the math program used for traditional and advanced placement classes.

The Pearson Religion Program stresses knowledge of Christ and His Church for both seventh and eighth grade, with preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation in the eighth grade. Seventh and eighth grade students are required to perform service hours, many of which may be obtained through the annual Birthright Baby Shower, and/or community service. Eighth graders and second graders are paired together to pray for one another as both grades of students will receive their sacraments in the spring. Peer counseling programs and assemblies are provided through the Behavioral Health Counselor.

The seventh and eighth grades have an active Student Government and a variety of other co-curricular activities that include an Academics Day team, Beta Club, National Junior Honor Society, Student Ambassadors and Yearbook. Seventh grade students participate in the Duke University Talent Identification Program. Eighth grade students take a class trip to Washington, D.C., each spring. Athletic participation is encouraged through a wide variety of sports.

## PLUS

The PLUS Program at *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School* provides an exceptional educational program for students with diagnosed Learning Disabilities (LD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders

(ADHD). Students with average, above average or gifted intelligence receive individual attention under the guidance of specially trained or qualified teachers. The PLUS program follows *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School's* philosophy of instilling confidence in students and building on individual strengths. The program is designed for students in grades 2 - 8 and class size is limited to no more than 16 students per class.

The primary long-term goal of the PLUS Program is to prepare students to graduate from high school and to pursue a college degree. In order to achieve this, PLUS students and parents must commit themselves to a rigorous course of study, which requires the student's attendance, academic diligence and appropriate behavior.

Students in the PLUS Program have the opportunity to interact with peers of choice, and attend traditional classes in art, music, computer and physical education. The highly structured classroom environment prepares them for the gradual transition into the traditional class setting.

The PLUS curriculum prepares students for a gradual transition into the traditional classroom setting when appropriate, and develops the skills necessary for academic success. The return to the traditional school routine is contingent upon development of skills necessary to function at that grade level. Instruction is geared toward the most direct route to develop those skills.

The willingness to learn, without comparison to the progress rate of others, drives student progress in the PLUS program. Students are never presented with academic challenges that are unattainable. Rather, they are continually presented with challenges they can accomplish, thereby reinforcing growth through success. Placement tests, as well as records from previous schools, family interview, and visitation by a prospective student are used to evaluate an applicant's probability for success in the program.

## Work, Prayer, Play

The philosophy of *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School* recognizes as its highest value an environment wherein knowledge is enlightened and enlivened by the Gospel values according to our Roman Catholic tradition. Administration, teachers, students and parents share this essence of faith in a spirit of great freedom and love. Based on this philosophy, *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School* seeks to lead each student in the gradual transition from dependence to self-determination. Participation in athletics, co-curricular activities and service projects is encouraged, providing opportunities for students to put into effect the Gospel values that the school seeks to impart.

*St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School* offers diverse and well-rounded athletic programs and accredited physical education classes to meet the physical needs of its students. The school is a member of the Parochial Athletic Association. Sports are offered for students in grades Jr.K through eight and include soccer, basketball and softball/baseball. Fifth grade offers football, volleyball, cross country and cheerleading and golf is available for seventh and eighth graders.

The spiritual aspect of campus life is important and appreciated by students, parents, faculty and staff alike. In addition to daily religion class, students attend Mass once a week and have the opportunity to participate in communion services, seasonal liturgies, class retreats and First Friday adoration.

*St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School* offers a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs and activities. They include an Academics Team, Altar Servers, Duke Talent Search, Forensics, Geography Bee, Math-A-Thon for St. Jude, Model UN/Youth Legislature, National Junior Beta Club, National Junior Honor Society, News Bowl, Reader's Digest Word Challenge, Safety Patrol, Scouts, Student Ambassadors, Spelling Bee, Student Government Association, Yearbook Staff and Youth Choir.

*A Complete Education for the Spirit, Mind and Body!*