



# ST. MARY MAGDALENE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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## ***About St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School***

### **How we began**

In the early 90's, Monsignor Paul Procella, then pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church and Community, had a vision and hope for the future. Monsignor Paul's vision included an environment where the children from Humble and the surrounding communities could attend a school in a Christ-like environment, where excellence and high standards would be achieved with discipline and honor. He hoped for a place filled with love where children could gain moral values as well as excel to their academic potential.

With the dedication and support of the entire St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Community, St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School opened its doors on August 15, 2001 with an enrollment of seventy-one students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade under the supervision of Monsignor Paul and Principal Jean Johnson.

Each year, for the next five years, the school added an additional grade level offering Catholic Education to students in PreK3 to 8<sup>th</sup> grade by 2006.

The 2015-2016 began with an enrollment of 325 students.

### **Profile**

*Pastor* Father Felix Ilesanmi Osasona

*Parochial Vicar* Father Anthony Udoh

*Principal* Joshua Raab

*Grades* PreK3 through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

*Profile details* Established: 2001

Affiliation: Roman Catholic

Hours: 8:00am – 3:00pm (PreK3 and PreK4)

8:00am – 3:20pm (Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup>)

Before School Care: A supervised program is available from 6:30am to 7:40am.

After School Care: A supervised program is available from 3:15pm to 6:30pm.

### *Target Teacher/Student Ratio*

PreK3 – 2:18, PreK4 – 2:20, Kindergarten 1:22, 1<sup>st</sup> grade 1:22, 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> 1:25

### *Faculty*

All classroom teachers are degreed and/or certified.

### *Cafeteria*

Full service; hot lunch, a la carte items

### *Accreditation/Memberships*

TCCED, NCEA, NJHS

### *Curriculum Source*

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston; compliant with Texas Catholic Conference Education Department and Texas Education Agency.

### *Testing Administered*

IOWA/CogAT

### *Competitive Sports*

Basketball, Cheerleading, Football, Soccer, Softball, Track, Volleyball

### *Extra-curricular*

Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Chess Club, Choir, Spirit Club, National Junior Honor Society, Robotics, Intra-School Soccer, Band, Choir, Multi-Media, Yearbook and Possible Theater for 2016-2017

### *Tuition*

Please see Tuition/Fee Schedule Sheet

### *Admissions*

Admission to St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School is based on the availability of space and resources as well as the development, scholastic and behavioral qualifications of the applicant.

### *Mission*

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School exists to develop students who have academic strength, strong moral values and a deeper understanding of their Catholic faith, so that they may succeed as individuals who make wise choices, serve others and attain a deep relationship with Christ.

## **Academic Profile**

### *Academics*

Our academic program is designed to provide an educational environment that challenges all students of any academic level. The curriculum is based on Christian values and authentic Catholic doctrine. A wide range of course offerings at SMMCS help to prepare each child for the rigors of both high school and college, while nurturing the developmental and emotional needs of each student.

Typically, 99% of our graduating students have been accepted by their first choice of high schools, including:

- Strake Jesuit
- St. Agnes Academy
- St. Thomas
- St. Pius X
- Incarnate Word Academy
- Frassati
- Cristo Rey Jesuit
- Quest Early College HS
- Humble International Baccalaureate Diploma Program
- Carnegie Vanguard High School

In addition to an ambitious curriculum, we have worked hard to provide all classrooms with overhead projector systems which integrate technology into our progressive daily courses. These systems provide opportunities to give our students the skills necessary to expand new ideas, set new goals, test a student's creative side and teach one another in a progressive, student-centered environment. Steeped in the tradition of the school is a commitment from all students, teachers, staff, and administrators to excel, to preserve and to dream.

In grades PreK3 through 3, students are heterogeneously grouped in self-contained classrooms. Grades 4 and 5 are semi-departmentalized. Grades 6 through 8 are departmentalized. Academic coaching is scheduled for all grade levels to assist with enrichment opportunities and study skills development. Students receive daily Religion instruction from an Archdiocesan certified Religion teacher and attend Mass once a week (PreK3 does not attend weekly Mass/PreK4 begins attending weekly Mass the second semester of the school year).

#### Early Childhood (PreK3 and PreK4)

The Early Childhood department of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School focuses on the complete development of the child. Beginning with the three year old preschool program, the students are given opportunities to develop socially. In the Early Childhood department, each teacher has a teacher's aide in the classroom. The teacher to student ratio at this level is 1:9 in PreK3 and 1:10 in PreK4. The curriculum focuses on social development through play and centers in a safe and nurturing environment. The children receive daily instruction in Religion, Math and Language Arts from their classroom teacher and weekly instruction in Music, Physical Education, Art, Spanish, Library, and Technology. Science and Social Studies are integrated within the curriculum as well.

#### Elementary (Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

At the Kindergarten level, there are two classes with two classroom teachers and max ratio of 1:22. This allows us to keep the ratio at a low level while preparing students for the Elementary Curriculum. Students in Kindergarten are focusing on language development and mathematical concepts.

In grades one through five, St. Mary Magdalene students have a strong foundation in the core areas. In grades one through three, students spend the majority of their day with their teacher. It is with their classroom teacher that they study Religion, Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Students also take classes in Spanish, Art, Music, Technology, and Physical Education. The students also visit the Library on a weekly basis. In grades four and five, students begin to change classes on a limited basis.

#### Middle School (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

The Middle School Department of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School is committed to meeting the educational and emotional needs of adolescents. Students in Middle School have eight class periods per day. Each class is taught by a teacher who has a specialty in the field they teach. All students take courses in Language Arts/Reading, Math, Social Studies, Science and Religion. Additionally, Middle School students take Physical Education classes and have the choices of two electives. Middle School students choose their electives prior to the beginning of the school year with classes in Fine Arts, Technology, Journalism, Foreign Languages, Yearbook, Stock Market, Multi Media and Service. Exposure to technology happens in several formats from using lab computers and a mobile Chrome Book cart.

### *Curriculum*

The curriculum for St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School is provided by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, in full compliance with the requirements of the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department and the Texas Education Education Agency. Our academic program is designed to provide an educational environment that challenges all students. The curriculum is based on Christian values and authentic Catholic doctrine.

### *Religious Education*

Religious education is the center of all that we do at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School. The religious dimension of the school extends throughout all subject areas and all school activities. Daily prayers, in addition to weekly Mass and special liturgy celebrations, provide a framework in which gospel values can flourish. Formal religious education instruction in the Catholic faith begins in PreK and continues throughout all grade levels and is included within our Advisory Program as well.

### *Assessment*

In addition to teacher-made tests given in the classrooms, St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School students in grades 1 through 8 are annually given the IOWA and CogAT tests. These tests are standardized norm-referenced tests. They are used to compare a student's progress to students across the nation or to detect specific weaknesses or strengths of a child or our academic programs. This means most of the students' scores describe how he/she did on the tests compared with other students in the same grade from across the nation who took the tests at about the same time of the school year. Students do not pass or fail these tests. These tests provide information essential to evaluating school programs, in particular the sequence subjects being taught, programs, units and activities used, and ways students are grouped to learn. In addition, teachers and administrators use these scores to evaluate each child's progress in school and to address special needs.

Teachers collect more information on a daily basis from class work, homework, and from teacher observations. Along with teacher-made tests, quizzes, and projects, the IOWA/ CogAT provides a broad picture on concept understanding and learning.

### *Parent Portals*

The purpose of the Parent PlusPortal is to help strengthen the ability for all of us involved in students' progress to communicate meaningfully and effectively. This communication can be a key to fostering and maintaining good relationships. As allies in this endeavor, we hope that the information provided through the Portal will allow parents/families to have specific conversations with students regarding grades, quizzes, tests and projects.

The portal enhances the family's ability to know what is happening with each student's progress in key areas. Other tools in the Portal, like teachers updating grades in a timely manner, can provide instant feedback so parents can help their children stay and remain on top of work and to self-advocate with teachers as necessary.

## **Who Are We?**

### *Our People*

First and foremost, our families, faculty and staff make us special! It is through our shared commitment to the mission of faith, gospel values, and academic excellence that we come together to serve our students, our parish and our community. Our dedicated and caring staff work closely with parents and students to foster a lifelong love of learning, and our close-knit, family oriented atmosphere provides a warm and loving environment where lasting friendships are made, and our students thrive.

### *Our Balance between Tradition and Innovation*

At St. Mary Magdalene, we teach the whole child - mind, body and spirit. Our students are taught the traditional subjects of Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Language Arts and Social Studies from PreK3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In addition, we still teach cursive handwriting, Music, Art, foreign language and Physical Education as part of our curriculum. This is further enhanced with the use of the latest technology and ongoing computer instruction. Daily religious instruction reinforces our morals and values, and teaches our children to build character and to serve our community.

### *Our Commitment to Service*

At St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School, we serve all. We place special emphasis on serving others within our school, our parish, and our community. From our PreK students to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, from our faculty and staff to our parents, we heed God's call to serve one another in a variety of ways.

### *Our Size*

With 325 students, St. Mary Magdalene is the perfect sized school, enabling us to offer a wide variety of classes, Middle School electives, after-school clubs, extra-curricular activities, academic competitions and athletic opportunities to our students, yet we are small enough to maintain a close and intimate community. St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Community is a large parish (serving over 4, 500 families) and provides our school families with extensive resources and opportunities for involvement.

### *Our Identity*

A Catholic school is more than just a school with religious symbols, texts and weekly Mass attendance. In a true Catholic school, spiritual growth is an integral part of all instruction. Whether in Math class, Social Studies or Religion class, Catholic ideals permeate student instruction. Instruction in the Catholic faith would not be complete without teaching our students to live that faith in their everyday lives. Students and staff put Catholic teaching into practice through projects which encourage students to examine and implement Catholic social teaching. Educators strive to use classroom management techniques which embody Gospel values and model those values to students every day.

## **Tips for Parents**

Parents and schools work together to help children learn. Students learn best when they know that their efforts are supported at home and at school. Everyone concerned, especially students, profit when there is a partnership for learning. Some ways you can help your child do his/her best at school is:

### *Be a Model*

Parents are the first teachers a child has. They will model your behavior, opinions and attitudes. If you value learning and show it, chances are your child will benefit. They will also benefit when they see you reading books and magazines, writing and talking about what is going on in the world.

### *Provide Support*

Your child needs your support in many ways. You support them every time you offer your child encouragement and set reasonable expectations for his/her achievement. It's very important to provide homework support as needed. Get them to school in plenty of time to allow them to come into a learning environment feeling in control and secure. A level of comfort is necessary in every learning situation.

### *Stay Informed*

Ask your child about school activities and learning experiences. Get to know your child's textbooks and take time to look at returned class work and assessments. Continue to review and support areas that have not been mastered with extra practice or tutoring. Keep in touch with your child's teachers and school. Attend Parent/Teacher Conferences and orientations. Find out the goals that are planned for your child, how the school plans to reach those goals, and how you can help.