

Academics

At St. Lucy School we provide a comprehensive curriculum that is challenging and values-based. Students are guided to develop an appreciation and joy for learning each day. Our top-notch innovative curriculum earned us the maximum 6-year term of accreditation by the Western Catholic Education Association.

St. Lucy School has been transitioning to the California Common Core Standards for the past three years. These English Language Arts (ELA) & Math standards ensure that all students are college and career ready for life after high school. Forty-three states have adopted these national standards including California. California's Educational Commission was able to add 15% to the national standards, which addressed any perceived gaps and ensured that the rigor of California's existing standards would be maintained. Subsequently, the Diocese of San Jose adopted the California Common Core Standards in 2012.

Students engage in a rich and challenging curriculum that includes the following subjects:

- **Language Arts** (Literature, Writing, Language, Grammar, and Spelling)
- **Mathematics** (Mathematics instruction is tightly coordinated across grade levels. Students may progress through high school Algebra I, with split levels of math offered in grades 7-8 based upon student achievement and pacing.)
- **Religion** (inclusive of a vibrant student service component)
- **Science** (Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science in state-of-the-art science lab)
- **Social Studies** (with frequent collaboration in art and literature projects)
- **Spanish Language** (grades 6 – 8 complete a high school Spanish I curriculum)
- **Art** (taught in its own studio classroom)
- **Music** (with winter and spring performances)
- **Physical Education** (supplemented by an Extra Curricular Athletic Program after school)
- **Computer Education** (features iPads, Chrome Books, digital cameras, broadcasting equipment, and after-school access)
- **Library** (focus on research skills, media literacy, and literature)

All students participate in a cross-curricular, comprehensive writing program.

Technology is integrated into instruction, and teachers collaborate on cross-curricular projects and skills instruction. We have moved into the 21st century learning by bringing iPads into the classrooms as follows: K-1st: 1:3 ratio, 2nd-3rd: 1:2 ratio, and 4th-8th: 1:1 ratio. Jr. High also benefits from 1:1 Samsung Chromebook laptops.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We have a highly-educated, bright, warm faculty who collaborates with parents to offer the most comprehensive extra-curricular program of any elementary school in the diocese. We believe in enriching student learning through multiple opportunities for students to broaden their school

experience through a rich co-curricular program. We also encourage our students to explore their interests by bringing forward their ideas for new clubs and activities. The following clubs are available to our St. Lucy students:

Drama Club	Student Council	Talent Show
Choir	Crochet Club	Helping Hearts Service Club
Cooking Club	Track and Field	Volleyball
Lego Robotics Club	Book Club	Girl Scouts
Boy Scouts	Football	Chess Club
Yearbook/Tech Club	Monday Math Club	

Pre-Kindergarten Program

- The Pre-K program features a warm and energetic atmosphere that links seamlessly with our Kindergarten program.
- The purpose of this program is to foster a love of learning in a faith-based environment.
- The program allows a student-teacher ratio of 1:7 with two teachers and one aide per twenty students.
- The program allows for flexible drop-off time from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. with an optional extended care program from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. The core curriculum is from 9:00 a.m. – noon.
- Students will learn and play together within a comprehensive curriculum that includes concepts of language arts, math, science, and creative arts.
- Each day, students have opportunities to develop motor skills, to practice self-discipline, and to build relationships, all in conjunction with beginning to understand the teachings of Jesus within a strong, cheerful, faith-based school “family.”

Kindergarten Program

- Kindergarten is a comprehensive full-day program, which offers a student-teacher ratio ranging from 1:9 – 1:6 throughout the day. The program links seamlessly with our Pre-Kindergarten program.
- The comprehensive program includes reading readiness, math foundations and number sense, Spanish, social development, religion, music, computers, library time, science, social studies, and motor skills/physical education.
- Our Kindergarten master teacher brings a wealth of experience into the classroom with over 27 years of teaching at St. Lucy School, and as an alumni parent herself. As the Vice Principal for the Primary Grades, she is an integral part of the school administration.
- Kindergartners are buddied up with fourth grade buddies, and participate in family groups with the entire school.
- Field trips and guest speakers round out the curriculum, and include the beloved Thanksgiving Feast and a trip to the Pumpkin Patch, and regular visitors from our community.
- Parent volunteerism is encouraged, and many opportunities are provided throughout the day.

Elementary Program: Grades 1-5

- A challenging academic and developmental program is offered to ensure the success of our students.
- Instructional aides augment the teaching staff in these grades, resulting in a 1:18 ratio.
- In addition to general academics, our program includes separate instructors for science, computers, library skills, physical education, music, and art.
- The second grade religion program prepares the children to celebrate the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- All students participate in Family Groups and our buddy program.

- Our credentialed math specialist regularly meets with small groups of students from grades 1 through 5 for small group mathematics instruction.
- A Resource Teacher is on campus to liaise with parents and teachers, and support student learning plans.

Jr. High Program: Grades 6-8

- Our Jr. High provides a rich program designed to motivate, challenge, and develop the older students as they step from childhood into their teen years. In preparation for high school, study skills, leadership skills, writing, and critical thinking are emphasized in a safe and supportive environment.
- Jr. High students get lockers, and move classrooms and instructors throughout the school day in preparation for high school.
- Our Jr. High teachers collaborate in the scheduling of tests and projects and ensure that the course workload is not overlapping, allowing students ample time to do their best work.
- During faculty meetings, teachers discuss students' academic strengths and growth areas.
- On-line access to current grades is available to students in grades 6-8 and their parents.
- A Resource Teacher is on campus to liaise with parents and teachers, and support student learning plans.
- Reading comprehension is supported through the LitMasters Reading Comprehension Club for students in the junior high who need additional support in this area.

Jr. High Advisory, Electives, and Family Group Leadership

Emotional, moral, social and intellectual development is fundamental to the healthy growth of Middle School students. Every Wednesday students are in Homeroom Advisory Groups, Electives or Family Groups.

The Jr. High Advisory Program integrates their homeroom teacher and two faculty advisers and peers to support the growth of the whole student. Teachers/Staff in the Advisory Program are interested in the well being of each student in their advisory group. They are concerned with not only the interpersonal skills that each child in their 6th, 7th, and 8th grade advisory group deal with in junior high but are interested in the academic growth that each student experiences. This provides an important connection for the student who is offered a venue for discussion and problem-solving. It is another way of demonstrating that there is a network of adults led by their homeroom teacher who are interested in each student's well-being during what can often be a challenging time in life.

On the first Wednesday of the month, students' homeroom teachers and faculty advisors guide students. It is another way of demonstrating that there is a network of adults at St. Lucy School who are interested in each student's well-being during what can often be a challenging time in life. Homeroom teachers choose the discussion topic and students begin advisory with a short film clip and then students are divided into three small groups and a discussion ensues.

The Advisory Program has three goals:

- Support for each Middle School student through assignment to a faculty adviser and 3-4 peers who meet monthly to discuss a variety of issues.
- Development of self-awareness, responsible decision-making, and life skills through the discussion of topics such as study strategies, ethics, social concerns and interpersonal skills.
- Promotion of involvement in service activities designed to promote awareness of and responsibility to the needs of others in the near and far world at-large.

The Jr. High Program has grown this year to include an Elective program. On the second and fourth Wednesday, students participate in Jr. High Electives. Led by the Jr. High teachers, students participate in 3 elective choices per year. They choose from Art, Physical Education, Broadcasting, Publishing, Mad Scientist and Newsroom. This allows for deeper exploration of an area of interest to the students.

On the third Wednesday, students join together in Family Groups with the 8th grader leading a K-8 grade group of students through an activity based on our yearly theme. This provides valuable leadership experience for our older family group members.

Religious instruction

- Using formal texts and supplemental print and web resources, religion classes emphasize family life, social justice, and Christian service. In all classes, Gospel values are a central theme.
- Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 attend retreats and participate in community service through the Campus Ministry office. Students in second grade prepare for First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation.

Language Arts

- Language Arts instruction features the comprehensive Step up to Writing program. Students in grades 6-8 in need of additional reading comprehension support benefit from our Lit Masters Club, moderated by our Language Arts Teacher, Mrs. Liz Hansen.
- St. Lucy School is currently involved in an evaluation of our English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum and resources. Throughout this academic year, we will be identifying our needs and exploring shifts such as
 - more emphasis on text complexity and increased exposure to non-fiction reading
 - increased connection to text when making evidentiary arguments
 - increased emphases in the use of evidence to inform rather than the personal narrative.

Mathematics

- Students are learning different math tools and strategies to help them solve problems. There is also an emphasis on both verbal and written explanations of these strategies, which is making a positive impact on their learning.
- Instruction is tightly coordinated across grade levels.
- Math classes are broken into smaller groups to promote a low student-teacher ratio and differentiate instruction. In grades 7 and 8, students are divided into an accelerated math class or a grade level class, which includes Pre-Algebra and Algebra I.
- Jr. High students are divided into accelerated and grade level math in grades 7 & 8. Students may move through Pre-Algebra or Algebra I by eighth grade, based upon student achievement and pacing. This allows for small class instruction and differentiated instruction to meet the needs of both typical and advanced learners.
- Jr. High Students also benefit from a College Prep Math (CPM) curriculum, which uses a study team approach in order to set the stage for more discovery learning and collaborative discussions between peers. This approach allows learners of all abilities to engage with the concepts and expands their resources to include manipulatives, models, peers, online tools as well as the teacher.

- With the adoption of the Common Core Standards, the junior high math department is implementing a new curriculum to align with these standards. While these standards outline the math topics to be taught in each grade, the biggest change lies in the mathematical practices that students will be expected to use. Some examples include persevering in their solutions, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively, and constructing arguments and critiquing the reasoning of others. To meet these goals, students will be working in study teams to develop their skills in communications, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity.

Social Studies

- Classes integrate literature, religious studies, technology, and art projects as students examine history through multiple lenses.

Science

- Science classes are taught in the **state-of-the-art science lab classroom**.
- Students explore the subject through **hands-on activities, labs, projects, and research**.
- Sixth graders attend the annual **science camp** at Walden West, and the eighth graders attend **Great America** for their science day focused on physics.

Spanish

- We offer an extensive three-year Spanish program in grades 6, 7, and 8, and our students are well equipped to place into Spanish 2 at the high school level if they choose.

Physical Education

- Physical education is taught in grades K-8. The emphasis is on basic skills, movement, fair play, and healthy exercise.

Art Program

- Art classes in grades 1-5 are integrated with other subjects and include a focus on the use of various art media, art appreciation, and art history.
- The art studio classroom boasts evidence of student creativity in its beautiful wall murals, and offers plenty of space for artistic expression and exploration using different mediums.
- Grades 1-5 have art classes once a week using multiple mediums for drawing, sketching and painting. They are taught both art technique and art history.
- Our young artists participate in several annual contests, such as poster design for the City of Campbell, the Fun Fest T-shirt design, the Aaron Brothers Art Contest, and the City of Saratoga Art Festival.
- Jr. high students choose to take Art class during their elective periods per trimester.

Music Program

- Students in grades K-5 have weekly music classes, with 4th graders and 5th graders learning to play the recorder. All of these grade levels sing as well.
- Students in Grades Pre-K-5 prepare a wonderful Christmas Program in December and Spring Program in May, which are both evening performances. As part of the program the Jr. High drama students who present Christmas and Spring Plays.
- Students in grades 2-8 sing in our school choir. The St. Lucy Choir sings for liturgies, and performs for Grandparents Day, the Christmas Program and the Spring Program. Five years ago, our choir performed for 500 people at the Bishop's annual Diocesan Scholarship Dinner.

St. Lucy School Library and TD Mac Lab

- **The Library Media Center** functions with a three-fold purpose: enrichment, reinforcement, and research. It consists of a multimedia library and technology lab offering a variety of information, literary and cultural resources, an educational television component, and a functional area for diverse learning experiences.
- The **Library** provides high quality materials, books, magazines, reference materials and Internet access. The Library also offers patrons online access to our extensive collection.

Computer Education & Technology

- Computer education and technology permeate our **fully wireless campus** through a curriculum that focuses on computer literacy and on-line research, supported by a **suite of iPad carts** and **jr. high Chromebook laptops** as well as a **fully stocked computer lab**, featuring over **6 new iMac computers**, iPads, Chromebooks, and a **student broadcast center** complete with green screen, teleprompter, lighting, video camera, and digital cameras.
- The computer lab also contains a state-of-the-art **overhead projection system**, high-speed **laser printers** and both **digital and video cameras**.
- Students in grades K-8 have regularly scheduled **computer classes** once a week. Time in the lab is structured around the NETS (National Educational Technology Standards for Students), and much of the work is designed in collaboration with requests of individual classroom teachers.
- **Technology is integrated** into instruction, and teachers collaborate on cross-curricular projects and skills instruction. According to the Common Core standards, students are expected to be able to use technology, including the internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others. Teachers implement a variety of learning and formation experiences through the use of different technologies such as **iPad apps, PowerPoint, streaming videos, videos and DVD's, slideshows, CTN resources such as web-quests, and Internet research**.
- Through the use of the **Google Classroom**, as a part of the Google Apps for Education, our teachers are communicating with the students in this one to one environment. This allows students to have the ability to get information needed at anytime or anywhere, extending the learning environment. Gone are the days where former students struggled with file transfer problems or the notorious "I forgot my floppy or flash drive".
- Each classroom and learning space has the use of **iPad** carts, as well as a **multimedia cart** housing a **digital document camera/projector** that is supported by sound equipment and a **DVD player**. Jr. high students also utilize Samsung **Chromebook laptops** on a 1:1 basis. Classrooms are also equipped with **Epson interactive projectors**, which work with iPads and laptops to project information on the white boards.
- We also have a **dedicated Director of Technology** on campus to act as resource for teachers in their application of technology as an additional tool in the classroom. The technology director also teaches computer skills, such as **typing, word processing, and graphic design**, to grades K-8 and introduces the concept of **internet safety** and **Digital Citizenship**.
- The **infrastructure was upgraded** last summer to allow for the expansion of devices in all classrooms. SLS regularly pursues hardware and software upgrades. The faculty and staff continue **professional development** in the area of technology.

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