**Mission**

An educational ministry of St. Philomene Parish, St. Philomene School offers a high-quality education centered around Gospel values and the teachings of Jesus Christ. We focus on educating the whole child spiritually, intellectually and emotionally with a challenging academic curriculum and a wide offering of extracurricular activities which open doors to learning and enrichment beyond the classroom. We support the efforts of parents, or primary educators, in fostering the moral, character-driven development of our students. St. Philomene strives to prepare aspiring learners for success in secondary education. We answer God’s call to serve faithfully by developing children into loving and productive members of society.

**Faith Focused**

St. Philomene actively provides students with rich faith formation opportunities that accompany their learning experience. The Christian foundation at St. Philomene presents itself in many ways. On a weekly basis, students and staff attend school-wide masses where they pray, and celebrate the Sacraments as a faith community. Our teachers routinely incorporate Catholic principles and faith values into daily curricular instruction. Recognizing the importance of service to God and each other, all students are expected to contribute their time and talents to the local community. It is expected that 8th grade students contribute at least 30 hours of service in off-campus areas. They often donate their time and talents to charitable causes like Happy Tails animal shelter, Fairytale Town, Loaves and Fishes, assisted living facilities and various park clean-up projects. Collecting food and donations for St. Vincent de Paul is a year-round ministry of our students. Students who perform God’s corporal works of mercy gain a deeper understanding of the human community and a greater respect for all members of God’s kingdom.
Academics and Enrichment

Students at St. Philomene are immersed in a supportive learning environment where they are free to engage their talents and explore their interests. Based on Diocesan and Common Core Standards, our curriculum welcomes healthy challenges that capture student interest and enhance critical thinking skills.

St. Philomene School embraces the philosophy of educating the whole child in mind, body and spirit. It is essential that students not only gain intellectual knowledge, but also social awareness through experiences outside of the classroom. We offer a broad selection of extracurricular activities for personal enrichment: baton, band, yearbook, academic decathlon, scouting, and athletics including basketball, volleyball, track & field, flag football and golf.

The Chromebook program at St. Philomene enhances STEM educational opportunities and provides hands-on learning experiences that engage students. All children in Grades 3-8 receive individual Chromebook laptops. Using these devices they take virtual field trips, submit assignments, collaborate on projects, and learn about how we all share a responsibility to operate evolving technologies with care and respect for ourselves and each other.

Our mission is to ensure that every St. Philomene student who passes through our doors develops the academic aptitude and the self-confidence to succeed in high school.

"Students who attend a Catholic school are twice as likely to score advanced on standardized assessments than their public school peers."

National Center for Education Statistics
CULTURE OF CARE
Teachers create a supportive environment where they utilize a variety of images, anecdotes, and dynamic explanations to communicate subject matter. Differentiating their instructional approach allows them to ensure that the learning process accommodates the learning styles of all children.

2017 Reading Proficiency Levels of Middle School Students in the 95821 Zip Code Area

6th Grade 7th Grade 8th Grade
Local Public Schools 24% 58% 39% 34% 69% 67%
St. Philomene

2017 Math Proficiency Levels of Middle School Students in the 95821 Zip Code Area

6th Grade 7th Grade 8th Grade
Local Public Schools 16% 27% 24%
St. Philomene 25% 38% 29%

REAL WORLD PREP
Our comprehensive curriculum develops well-rounded graduates with the academic aptitude and strength of character to succeed in high school, college, and career.

*The graphs above compare the student test scores of St. Philomene School to those of its neighboring public schools. St. Philomene students are given STAR Math and STAR Reading Assessments from Renaissance Learning, whereas California public school students are required to take the Smarter Balanced exam under the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) system. The comparison of these separate tests is made possible by the application of psychometric equivalencies, which standardize the criteria used to evaluate and score these different academic assessments. The tables below display grade-level learning data based on both Renaissance STAR data and CAASPP data.

(1) Based on 2016-2017 STAR Reading and STAR Math testing data for St. Philomene School obtained from © 2017 Renaissance Learning, Inc. All rights reserved.

(2) Based on 2017 CAASPP Smarter Balanced test results of select public schools in Sacramento City Unified School District. Testing results are publicly available online via the California Department of Education: http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/
Financial information for the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years is presented above. Note the significant difference between the Cost to Educate per Student and the First Child Parishioner Tuition Rate. The disparity between these figures is striking for the 2017-18 school year where the deficit is estimated to be $2,501 per student. When comparing the Estimated Deficit per Student to K-8 Enrollment for each period, the data depicts a high correlation between student enrollment, estimated deficit values per student and fundraising needs. These correlational relationships illustrate that strong enrollment numbers are necessary to mitigate the gaps between student tuition and education costs.
Community Involvement and Fundraising

Because tuition for St. Philomene School is less than the cost to educate, we count on your continued fundraising support to provide the best learning experience for our children. Our most popular fundraising events are the Harvest Dinner and our Crab Feed. We look forward to these occasions every year, as they are wonderful opportunities for the community to fundraise while celebrating fellowship, and supporting St. Philomene’s mission to educate minds and inspire spirits. Proceeds from these, and all other fundraising opportunities, help pay for expenses that tuition does not cover.

It is also expected that families will be involved on a voluntary basis to provide services that benefit the school. Family participation in our Scrip and service hour programs is invaluable in helping us lower our operating costs and improve the quality of education for our children. We extend families the option of need-based financial aid. On average, our families receive approximately $65,000 in tuition assistance each year. We appreciate and honor the sacrifices of all families who believe in the value of Catholic education and trust us as their partner in education. Your ongoing support demonstrates a strong sense of community; and that is what separates St. Philomene from other educational environments.
Closing Remarks

St. Philomene School was established in 1949 to provide a strong elementary school program to families in the Sacramento area. Our 60-year history presents a solid track-record of guiding students through a comprehensive education that affords a lifetime of both spiritual strength and intellectual aptitude. We educate the whole child in a Catholic setting by providing a comprehensive education that integrates Christian practice and Catholic identity. Our respect for diversity ensures a nurturing environment where children can further enhance their self worth. Our challenging curriculum encourages life-long learning and offers children the analytical, critical, communicative and civic skills to adapt to an ever-changing world. It is our great privilege to enlighten young minds as the co-educator of your children. Thank you for recognizing St. Philomene as a school where your children will be enriched spiritually, prepared academically and challenged to fulfill their utmost potentials.