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## Schoolwide Learning Expectations

**Catholic Identity:** We are Catholic learners who have a strong knowledge of Church teachings and traditions. We actively demonstrate our Catholic faith through daily prayer, the sacraments and the liturgy. We demonstrate reverence, respect and responsibility in thoughts, words and actions.

**Communication Skills:** We are effective communicators who listen to others, follow directions and demonstrate skilled oral, written and non-verbal communication. We use technology as a tool for communication and learning.

**Critical Thinking:** We are effective problem solvers who think critically to identify, analyze and solve problems.

**Community:** We are responsible citizens who demonstrate the values of our Catholic faith by serving others. We value family relationships and friendships, actively working to build an inclusive school community to live as Jesus did.

Lifelong Learners: We are well-rounded individuals who pursue academic excellence, explore and develop our unique talents and gifts and realize learning is a never-ending process.

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## School Philosophy

We, the Notre Dame School Community, within the framework of St. Joseph and St. Mary's parishes, are committed to giving our students a firm academic and spiritual foundation rooted in Catholic values. The parents are the primary educators of their children, and we, in respectful partnership, assist them in their children's pursuits of academic excellence and success. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the school community strives to develop Catholic Social Teachings in our contemporary, multicultural world. We foster the growth of the total child as a unique creation of God.

With these convictions to guide us, we see this overall process as a cooperative effort between the parish community and the school. To implement these philosophical beliefs, we established the following goals: **Spiritual**

- To build a Community of Faith in our school, our parish, and our neighboring community.
- To help students develop a closer relationship with God through Liturgy and prayer, both personally and communally.
  - To impart in each child a knowledge, understanding, and love of the word of God in Scripture.
  - To prepare each child to apply Catholic Christian values in his or her individual daily life.
- To develop in each student a 'Gospel Awareness' of the needs of others within our parish, community and our world.
  - To teach that each student is responsible for peace, freedom and preservation of the world.
  - To provide opportunities for experiencing 'awe' at God's creation.

## Intellectual

- To provide a quality academic program that fosters critical thinking and cooperative

learning.

- To meet the individual needs of each student through a variety of learning experiences.
- To develop each student's creativity and intellectual awareness.
- To promote effective study skills, work habits, and a zest for lifelong learning.

## **Physical**

- To provide opportunities for students to develop fine motor and gross motor skills.
- To help students develop healthy bodies by fostering good health attitudes and practices that will benefit them through life.
- To help each student develop a healthy respect for his or her body.
- To provide opportunities for students to participate in extra-curricular sports activities.
- To promote good sportsmanship in each student.

## **Community Service**

- To develop in each student a 'Gospel Awareness' of the needs of others within our parish, community, and our world.
- To teach each student that he or she is responsible for peace, freedom and preservation of the world.

## **Personal-Social**

- To recognize "self" as a unique and valuable being.
- To appreciate the diversity of all individuals.
- To foster a spirit of openness, friendship, caring and sharing.
- To appreciate racial and cultural differences, as well as similarities.

## **Psychological-Emotional**

- To develop a realistic self-image.
- To achieve high ideals of truth, justice and shared responsibility.

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## **Religious Formation**

For the children of Notre Dame School, religious education is an integral part of their daily lives. Notre Dame School serves the needs of both St. Joseph and St. Mary's parishes in Vacaville.

## **Religious Education, Sacramental Preparation, Liturgical Programs and**

## Parish Identity

1. The School shall provide regular religious instruction to all students in accordance with Diocesan policies/directives and school policies as developed by the Notre Dame School Advisory Commission and approved by both pastors.

2. The school shall prepare the students for the celebration of sacraments, taking into consideration the particular directives of each parish.

The place of the first reception of the Sacrament of Eucharist and Confirmation shall be each student's own parish church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be celebrated at St. Joseph Parish. Mass is celebrated on a weekly basis. Prayer services are held in accordance with the Liturgical calendar.

### **Sacramental Preparation**

- Second Grade - Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
  
- Seventh Grade - Confirmation