

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS LIKE?

Admissions are accepted throughout the school year. There is a \$20 application fee. When school is in session, a shadow day is required, along with a student interview, academic records for Grades 1-5. If the student is diagnosed with a disability, an IEP/FIE paperwork should be reviewed. Upon admittance, enrollment paperwork will be given along with a \$200 enrollment fee.

DO YOU PRIORITIZE APPLICATION?

Yes. 1.) Siblings of currently enrolled students 2.) Current St. Mary's Cathedral Parishioner Families 3.) Catholic Families from other Parishes 4.) All other students

WHAT IS THE STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO?

The average ratio in Montessori is 1:18, staffed with a teacher and an assistant. In Kindergarten through 5th grade, the average is 1:15.

WHAT ARE THE HOURS?

Our doors open at 7:30 AM. School begins at 8:00 and dismisses at 3:00. Extended Day Care is available for an extra charge until 6:00.

DO ALL STUDENTS WEAR UNIFORMS?

Yes. We have a bi-annual uniform exchange for used uniforms or new uniforms can be purchased at Amarillo Screen Graphics.

WHAT SPECIAL CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE?

Core classes in Kindergarten-5th consist of Religion, Math, English/Language Arts (Grammar/Phonics/Writing/Handwriting/Reading), Science, and Social Studies. Special Classes are Physical Education, Spanish, Music, Library, and STEM.

IS THERE FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE?

Yes. FACTS, a third-party company processes financial aid applications. Applications are only considered once an application has been made to the school and the registration fee has been paid.

DO WE HAVE TO BE CATHOLIC TO ATTEND SMCS?

St. Mary's Cathedral School welcomes all students regardless of background or faith. Non-Catholic students are required to actively participate in religion classes, religious celebrations, and liturgies while attending SMCS.

HOW OLD DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO BE TO ATTEND?

Montessori: 3 on or before September 1

Kindergarten: 5 on or before September 1

1st Grade: Must be 6 by September 1

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS?

All our teachers meet the requirements by TCCB-ED and are certified through SBEC in the state of Texas as highly-qualified.

DO STUDENTS ATTEND MASS?

We have a weekly school Mass for all our students on Fridays at 9:00 AM in the church. Classes take turns hosting Mass as greeters, readers, offering prayers of the faithful, and gift bearers. Students are altar servers and sing in the choir.

HOW IS TUITION PAID?

Tuition can be paid annually, bi-annually, or on a 12 or 10 month payment plan. For more than one child, there is a 20% discount on child 2+.

DO YOU GIVE STANDARDIZED TESTS?

In the fall, students in Grades 1-5 are given Iowa Assessments. It is a measure of previously taught learning in several core content areas. Students are normed against other students across the nation by age and grade level. Students in Grades 1-5 also take the CogAT, which is a cognitive abilities test measuring reasoning and logic. Students in Grade 5 are given the ACRE test as a measure of religious formation.

WHAT OTHER ACTIVITIES DO YOU OFFER?

Piano lessons and voice lessons can be arranged during lunch/recess time for an additional, outside fee to the teacher. Hands-On Science, for students in Grades 4 and 5 is also available after school for an additional fee. Students compete in PSIA Academic Competitions in Grades 1-5.