



# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SCHOOL

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

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## Welcome to St. Vincent's

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St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School offers a comprehensive education to children in grades K through 8 with an emphasis on building their Catholic faith as the necessary tool for making positive contributions to society and the world around them. The school's mission statement reads: "The mission of the St. Vincent de Paul School community is to enable all the students to live their Catholic faith and to achieve academic success."

Operating under the auspices of the St. Vincent de Paul Church within the Diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend, Indiana, the school is located on the corner of Auburn and Wallen roads. It is situated in a suburban residential area. St. Vincent de Paul School was established in 1956 initially offering grades 1 through 4 but eventually expanding to serve the growing educational and spiritual needs of the parish community until its present population of approximately 770 students in grades K through 8.

## Admissions

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St. Vincent de Paul School encourages the enrollment of all interested students without regard to color, race, gender or national origin, and will reasonably accommodate the disabled in its educational programs. A child may be enrolled in kindergarten if he/she is five years old on or before August 1.

### Admission Process

Admission to St. Vincent de Paul School is determined by the following priorities:

- 1) Children of actively participating St. Vincent de Paul parishioners with siblings attending St. Vincent de Paul School and children with siblings who graduated from the school.
- 2) Families who are registered members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish who regularly attend Mass, participate actively in the parish, are dedicated to Catholic education, have shown a commitment to the parish through length of membership, and consistently provided weekly financial support in the parish envelopes.
- 3) Catholic students from other parishes with written recommendation from the parish.
- 4) Non-Catholic students with character references from a minister or school administrator.

# Important School Information

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## Daily Schedule

7:45 a.m.	School begins
9 a.m.	Gospel reading/prayer/Pledge of Allegiance/morning announcements
10:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m.	Classes break for lunch/recess at various times
2:45 p.m.	Dismissal

## Tuition & Fees

Each year, St. Vincent de Paul School establishes tuition and fees for the upcoming school year. School income is dependent on donations through the parish envelopes, tuition and fees. The parish provides a significant portion of the actual cost to educate each student. Therefore, parents are expected to practice stewardship in using weekly church envelopes. Tuition is assessed based on the number of children in the family attending St. Vincent de Paul School. Tuition may be paid in one payment directly to the school, due July 15th, or in three to 12 payments as contracted with the FACTS tuition management program. **\*Financial assistance is available to those families unable to meet the obligation of tuition.** Families requesting financial aid must contact the business administrator to receive assistance for the following year. Additionally, families have two opportunities to earn money toward their tuition account by patronizing local businesses participating in the Parish Rewards program or by purchasing gift certificates through the school's SCRIP program.

## Uniform Dress Code

St. Vincent de Paul School has instituted a uniform dress code to ensure all students are appropriately attired for school. The uniform dress code is designed to avoid social situations that are not consistent with the Gospel message and Catholic identity.

## Transportation

St. Vincent de Paul School does not provide or make use of any bus service. Transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the parents. Car pooling is encouraged and facilitated to reduce the number of cars entering the school's parking lots. Volunteers organize the parking lot procedures, parking lot assignments and staff the drop-off and pick-up sites.

## After-school Care

St. Vincent de Paul School provides a staffed After-School Care program. The program operates on all full school days from 2:45 to 6 p.m. Activities include snack time, play time and study time. All students participate in quiet time daily in order to read or do homework. A registration fee of \$25 is required the first year each child is enrolled in the program. The cost of the program is \$3.00 per hour for each child. Registration for the After-School Care program takes place in the Spring.

# Catholic Identity

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The true presence of Jesus Christ in all that happens at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School is what sets it apart. Parents, teachers, staff, students and parishioners compose a school community that lives its faith as a family.

## Sacramental Preparation

Parents are recognized as the primary educators in their children's faith formation. Their participation in sacramental preparation is highly encouraged through parent meetings and retreat opportunities. Second grade students prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. They receive formal instruction through their classroom teachers, the parish director of religious education and the parish priests. Eighth grade students prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation through the experience of service projects, as well as instruction from their religion teacher, the director of religious education and the parish priests.

## Reinforcing Catholic Identity

St. Vincent's staff members reinforce the lessons, values and religious foundation laid in the home by creating opportunities for students to grow in their faith and apply values learned. Younger students benefit from the example set by older students in the school, especially through the Spirit Pals program and the weekly celebration of Mass in which each class is responsible for planning a liturgy. Families are welcome to attend weekly school Mass, volunteer in the school, attend school events and join in any opportunity to reinforce and encourage the Catholic values being taught to our children.

Prayer is the key component of daily life at St. Vincent's. Daily Gospel readings and reflections, classroom prayer, prayer before athletic events and meals, family rosaries, Catholic Schools Week celebrations and retreats are just a few ways the tone is set for a spiritually enriching environment. Students participate in All School Masses every week, special Advent and Lenten services, Eucharistic Adoration and other church events that include the entire community. Students are also encouraged to follow Christ's example in service to others by participating in programs to help those in need through toy drives, food drives, adopted families, confirmation service projects and many more Student Council-sponsored programs.

# The Future of the School

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The future of St. Vincent de Paul School is now. Reaping the benefits of a recent \$10 million church and school expansion, St. Vincent's is poised to offer an excellent academic and spiritual education for every child

## Strategic Plan

The school's five-year strategic plan is an ongoing document managed by the pastor, principal and school board. The plan outlines the school's needs and opportunities in the areas of technology, staff development, curriculum, school infrastructure and specialty programs to keep pace with the expected expansion of its parish community.

A student-focused improvement plan highlights academic objectives and measurements that will keep the school progressing toward improved individualized instruction. A dynamic plan ensures a dynamic curriculum necessary to meet the needs of every student.

## Development Program

In 2004, a formal development department was established to steer the school's fund raising and marketing efforts. The department, assisted by the Development Advisory Board, oversees marketing, public relations, student recruitment, special events, and short- and long-term fund raising through endowment, annual appeal and planned giving. The St. Vincent de Paul School endowment fund exists to ensure the school's future growth and enhancement.

# Curriculum

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St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School children receive a traditional curriculum grounded in their Catholic faith. Material presented in math, social studies, science, Language Arts and foreign language classes is aligned with state standards and expanded upon to include an understanding of the Gospel messages of Jesus Christ. Development of higher level thinking skills and techniques for problem solving are also emphasized. All students participate in specials classes that include fine arts and computer instruction. Dedicated, licensed teachers differentiate instruction in the classroom based on learning styles and academic needs. A resource room with special education personnel provides services for students with learning disabilities and mild mental or physical handicaps. A Talent Development teacher challenges those students who require opportunities beyond their standard studies. St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School is accredited by the North Central Association. Its standardized test scores continue to be higher than average state scores in all areas. The quality of education is consistently monitored through the School Improvement Plan with researched-based programs adopted to assure academic success for every student.

## **Kindergarten (both full and half day) through Third Grades**

Goals for literacy and math are emphasized from the first day a child enters the building. Skills are started and developed through the primary grades in phonemic awareness, comprehension, spelling and vocabulary. A paraprofessional works side by side with the classroom teacher to provide one-on-one instruction when necessary.

## **Fourth through Sixth Grades**

Students begin to move beyond their homeroom class to experience the expertise of different teachers who specialize in the academic disciplines. They are encouraged to become more independent and self-motivated and are given the opportunity to participate in additional school activities such as athletics, choir and band.

## **Seventh and Eighth Grades**

Junior High at St. Vincent's gives its adolescent students a chance to experience more varied opportunities through service projects for the Sacrament of Confirmation, competitive sports, Student Council and Foreign Language. Algebra, Spanish, and French are classes offered that provide credit for students toward high school graduation.

# Curriculum Enhancing Facilities & Personnel

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The school's academic programs are designed to expose the individual student to new experiences and concepts. St. Vincent de Paul School views diverse interests among its student population as a positive force which allows all students to value and recognize the unique gifts of the individual. Each student makes St. Vincent's a

## **Facilities**

Two fully equipped technology labs are accessible to all students throughout the day. Weekly classes are scheduled in each grade level with instruction in computer basics, Microsoft Office software such as Excel and PowerPoint, as well as desktop publishing for the upper grades. The school is wired and networked so projects started in computer classes can be saved to the server for completion at a later time or possibly on the computers located in each classroom. Many rooms have interactive "smart boards" that allow for connectivity and real-time learning experiences through the Internet. Facilities also include a science lab, two music rooms, two art rooms, a full-size school library and a large gymnasium with concessions and tournament-hosting capabilities.

## **Specials**

"Specials," as they are called, are classes meant to supplement the core curriculum and allow students to develop their creative talents. St. Vincent students participate in the following classes: art, music, library, computers, thinking skills, band, choir, French, and Spanish.

## **Non-certified Personnel**

A registered nurse is present daily in the school. The nurse assists in injuries and illnesses, coordinates health screenings, and maintains student health records providing appropriate services for students with chronic needs.

A school counselor works in the classroom on social issues, but is also available for one-on-one conversations as the need arises. The counselor directs a Conflict Managers program allowing students to mediate conflict situations between students. A Rainbows program is also available to support students who have experienced the loss of a loved one through death, divorce or separation.

# Extracurricular and Fine Arts Activities

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St. Vincent de Paul School seeks to supplement its core curriculum through extracurricular activities staffed by faculty, HASA volunteers and parents. These extracurricular offerings continue to expand and change as students' interests diversify.

## Extracurricular activities

The school currently offers the following opportunities:

- Missoula Theater project—grades 1-8
- Art Club—grades 7,8
- Jazz Band—grades 5-8
- Video Club—grades 5-8
- Robotics Team—grades 5-8
- Math Counts Team—grades 7,8
- Journalism Club—grades 6,7,8
- PEAK (after school enrichment classes) - grades 1-6
- Drama Club -grades 5-8
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, grades 1-8
- Co-curricular: Band, grades 5-8

# Athletic Programs

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St. Vincent de Paul School has a long, outstanding history in athletic excellence. The school, assisted by the Athletic Committee, Athletic Booster Club, and volunteer coaches, constantly reviews the sports program and athletic opportunities offered for its students.

## Athletic Offerings

Currently, the school offers competitive teams in the following sports:

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| Basketball—intramurals     | Grades 3, 4    |
| Basketball—boys & girls    | Grades 5,6,7,8 |
| Cheerleading—girls         | Grades 5,6,7,8 |
| Cross Country—boys & girls | Grades 5,6,7,8 |
| Football—boys              | Grades 5,6,7,8 |
| Golf—boys                  | Grades 7,8     |
| Soccer—boys & girls        | Grades 5,6,7,8 |
| Softball—girls             | Grades 5,6,7,8 |
| Track—boys & girls         | Grades 5,6,7,8 |
| Volleyball—girls           | Grades 5,6,7,8 |
| Wrestling—boys             | Grades 5,6,7,8 |
| Tennis-boys & girls        | Grades 5,6,7,8 |