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We communicate God's love, develop strong and active faith and inspire all to learn.



ST. FRANCIS BORGIA GRADE SCHOOL'S MISSION

Each day at St. Francis Borgia Catholic School, we **communicate God's love, develop strong and active faith, and inspire all to learn.**

The school motto "**Learning in the Light of Christ**" reflects our belief that by providing an exceptional education experience, we create a strong faith community and inspire our school community to serve others.

Education, faith, community and service are the cornerstones of St. Francis Borgia Grade School. The exceptional experiences and opportunities we provide set the foundation for a lifetime of academic, social and spiritual success that will benefit our students, their families and our global community both today and in the years to come.



SFBGS INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

The teachers and staff foster an environment where all students are provided the opportunity for success. Instruction methods for multiple intelligences allow students to display their knowledge in ways that are educational and meaningful to them. Instructors use teacher and learner-centered approaches:

- Demonstrations
- Direct and small group instruction
- Lecture
- Discussions
- Modeling
- Cooperative learning
- Role playing
- Journaling
- Interactive white boards
- SMART boards
- Graphic organizers
- Manipulatives

Excellent teacher-to-student ratio, a **full-time resource teacher** and staff collaboration aid in identifying the individual needs and learning styles of each student. Our students receive **individual attention** that addresses their educational needs by providing **additional challenges and learning resources**. Our campus boasts large classrooms as well as dedicated classrooms for science, art, music, technology/computer and physical education.



OUR DEDICATED TEACHERS AND STAFF

*St. Francis Borgia Grade School boasts a strong faculty and staff committed to the educational, social and spiritual enrichment of each student. Communication between home and school is essential. SFBGS utilizes an online program called **SchoolSpeak** to provide parents with daily access to their student's grades, homework, school calendar and teacher updates. A weekly folder system, e-mail, newsletters, website and automated phone system provide ample opportunities for communication. Our staff members include:*

- Pastor
- Associate pastor
- Coordinator of religious education
- Full time administrator
- Preschool teachers for 3 year olds
- Junior Kindergarten teacher for 4 year olds
- Classroom teachers for grades Pre K – 8
- Specialized Staff
 - Art
 - Music
 - Band
 - Physical education
 - Library
 - Technology Lab
- Learning Specialist
- School Secretary
- School Counselor
- Health Aide
- Teacher Aide
- Dedicated Parent Volunteers trained in the Protecting God's Children program



FAITH DEVELOPMENT

As a Catholic institution, religion and social justice are at the core of our curriculum. Religious instruction is provided daily and students are provided numerous opportunities for living their faith at St. Francis Borgia Grade School.

- **Virtue – Based Restorative Discipline Program (VBRD)** decreases antisocial behaviors and increases faith practices. Virtues of kindness, compassion, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, unity, love & thankfulness are emphasized with the students.
- **Daily prayer**
- **Weekly Holy Masses** with student servers, lectors & song leaders
- Special celebration Masses (Grade 4 Bible Mass, Fathers’ Mass, Mothers’ Mass, Holy Days of Obligation)
- Weekly **Adoration** on Tuesdays
- Preparation and Fulfillment of Sacraments
 - **First Reconciliation** and **First Communion** in grade 2
 - **Confirmation** in grade 8
- **Reconciliation prayer services** for grades 3-8 throughout the year
- **Retreats** with special themes for K through grade 8:
 - Kindergarten - Favorite Bible Stories
 - Grade 1 – Understanding the Mass
 - Grade 2 – Eucharist
 - Grade 3 – Growing in God’s Love
 - Grade 4 – Scripture
 - Grade 5 – Gift of Friendship
 - Grade 6 – Prayer
 - Grade 7 – Discover Life: Freedom in Christ
 - Grade 8 - Confirmation
- **Stewardship** – students learn to use their **time, talent, and treasure** to help community organizations at each grade level. Projects include:
 - Care packages for the military
 - Items for the Pregnancy Assistance Center in Washington
 - Parish Giving Tree during Advent
 - Items for Friends of Kids With Cancer
- Opportunities for **Pro-Life** activities for 8th grade
- **Christian Service Requirements**
 - Grade 6 – 10 hours of service
 - Grade 7 – 15 hours of service
 - Grade 8 – 20 hours of service
- Learn to pray the **Rosary**
- **Advent Family Night**
- **Stations of the Cross**



SFBGS CURRICULUM

Our progressive curriculum promotes academic success, as well as the enrichment provided by social & spiritual education.

- **RELIGION**- “Finding God” is the curriculum used in grades K-8. It is a faith formation program that integrates Scripture and doctrine in class activities and introduces Catholic social teachings. Students learn the content of their Catholic faith, celebrate it in worship and connect it to their everyday lives.
- **LANGUAGE ARTS** - A variety of tools including “Step Up To Writing” and “Six Traits to Writing” are utilized to promote strong oral and written language skills. The mechanics of writing are addressed. Critical writing assessments begin with paragraphs in the primary grades and evolve to research papers in upper grades. Writing occurs across the curriculum. Creative writing is encouraged at all grade levels.
- **READING** – Our program develops proficiency in decoding, comprehension, purpose, oral reading & library skills. It fosters an appreciation of various literary genres by utilizing the Scott Foresman Reading Street series, literature sets, SPIRE, Accelerated Reading program, Mark Twain & Truman award winning books, Newspapers in Education and Book Buzz.
- **MATH** - The Saxon Math Program promotes differentiated instruction. This program covers all facets of mathematics including pre-algebra and algebra for our student in grades 7 & 8.
- **SCIENCE** – Students are provided with “hands-on” approach in fully equipped science lab.
- **SOCIAL STUDIES** – The material covers local, national and world history and geography. Current events are covered by weekly newspapers and magazines.
- **FOREIGN LANGUAGE** – Spanish instruction is available to students in grades 6, 7 & 8.
- **ART** – Within a dedicated art classroom, instruction is provided in drawing and design. Popular art styles are explored and creative development is encouraged.
- **MUSIC** – Within a dedicated music classroom, students are exposed to vocal and instrumental music. The “Yamaha Music in Education” program promotes reading music and playing the keyboard in grades K through 8.
- **BAND** – Our award winning band is offered for beginners and advanced students in grades 6 – 8.
- **PHYSICAL EDUCATION** – Our program promotes physical health, good sportsmanship, and exposure to various sports.
- **LIBRARY** – A computerized system is offered with over 8,500 books.
- **TECHNOLOGY** – Our wireless campus has computers within the network in each classroom. In our state- of-the-art lab, students learn applications, develop PowerPoint presentations & use SMART board technology. Students use Kidspiration to build Venn diagrams and concept webs. Microsoft Word and Microsoft Publisher are utilized by students. Basic keyboarding skills are taught in grade 4 and reviewed in grades 5-8. Our teachers use iPads in the classroom in conjunction with the SMARTBoards.



SFBGS FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Our school is promoted and maintained by the parents, grandparents and community members who support our school's mission and honor its tradition.

The following are a few examples of ways to be a part of our school:

- Parish Board of Education
- Library Aide
- Technology Lab Aide
- Art Room Aide
- Scout Leader
- Athletic Association
- Band Boosters
- Home & School Association
- Room Party Chairperson
- Borgia Shop & Earn
- Family Fun Night
- Field Day
- Catholic Schools Week
- Fall Festival
- First Reconciliation reception
- Confirmation reception
- Preschool Trivia Night
- Iowa Testing



SFBGS STUDENT ACTIVITIES

*These opportunities prepare our young people for success
inside and outside the classroom.*

- Student Council
- Children's Choir
- Basketball for boys and girls in grades 5, 6, 7 & 8
- Volleyball for girls in grades 6, 7 & 8 and boys in grade 8
- Cheerleading for girls in grades 6,7 &8
- Girl Scouts
- Cub Scouts
- Boys Scouts
- Show Me Reading program
- Mark Twain Reading program
- Band
- DARE program
- Math Bowl
- Spelling Bee
- Geography Bee