



Enhanced Curriculum (Specials)

Teachers	<p>Mr. Julio Suarez, Art Mrs. Colleen McColgan, Technology Mrs. Melissa Duskocil, Technology Assistant Mrs. Victoria Hess, Fine Arts Mrs. Shannon Lopez, Library Mrs. Leyla McCarty, Physical Education: Assistant Mr. William Wright Ms. Brianna Arias, Spanish Pre-K to 5th Grade Teacher profiles available on www.stjosephtx.org</p>
Art	<p>At SJCS, the art program provides students in grades K-8th an opportunity to have a comprehensive and educational visual art experience. Through age-appropriate art lessons and studio projects, students are taught art techniques, art history, art terminology and art aesthetics.</p> <p>Studio techniques covered in art lessons include drawing, cartooning, painting, collage, mixed media, mask-making and multicultural projects. The elements of art and design principles, as well as perspective and color theory are explored. At SJCS, a special part of the art program is studying and creating Christian art works celebrating Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Individual creativity is encouraged and group or class assignments are part of the curriculum. Visual resources of works of art accompany lectures, demonstrations and discussions. Student artwork is exhibited in classrooms and throughout the school.</p> <p>A juried student art exhibit open to SJCS in 3rd – 8th Grades in the Media Library occurs annually with a Meet the Artists reception and gallery walk.</p>
Technology	<p>The school has a state-of-the-art Computer Lab in which students are assigned their own Dell desktop computer. From Kindergarten, the students are instructed in Microsoft Office programs. By 8th grade, students should be proficient in Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher. In Upper School, we have implemented a MS Word and MS Excel curriculum from B.E. Publishing. Students will practice and utilize all of the skills included in the Microsoft Office Certification tests. We have also added an online keyboarding program, Typing Pal, for grades 1-8.</p> <p>Along with the regular curriculum, the Technology Department supplements integrating technologies with core subjects. One iPad2 mobile labs -- with 25 iPads each -- and a new Chrome books mobile lab are available for the teachers to use with the students to integrate and supplement classroom instruction.</p>



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	<p>In addition to our computers, the Lab has a color laser printer, which allows the students to create beautiful finished work. All teachers have access to the Computer Lab for special projects.</p>
Fine Arts	<p>Our Fine Arts Department encompasses a plethora of activities for all St. Joseph students. As the younger students focus on specific music topics, vocabulary, rhythms, composers, theory and notes, the upper school students focus on speech, drama and choir.</p> <p>The Fine Arts Department hosts a Talent Show or musical each year to showcase their talents.</p> <p>Fourth and fifth graders learn music reading skills by mastering the soprano recorder, in addition to PSIA (Private School Interscholastic Association) Music Memory Contest.</p> <p>All upper grade students are encouraged to participate in the school choir. This choir performs each week during Mass and other special celebrations throughout the year. Upper school students also have the opportunity to participate in the PSIA One-Act Play competition.</p>
Library	<p>Library Programs: Scholastic Book Fairs, Braum's/Pizza Hut/Six Flags reading programs, PSIA, and Spelling Bee. Our library serves primarily to support SJCS students' literacy development through shared reading experiences; from encountering storybook characters to conducting meaningful research, the library is a guided and cooperative space intended to instill a deep-rooted love of learning. Students may visit the library as needed during the school day to do research, check out books, or use reference materials. The SJCS library collection includes over 5,000 resources including award winning books and titles recommended by the School Library Journal. Additionally, there are five library computers each with filtered Internet access. All classes visit the library at least once a week to check out books.</p> <p>PreK-3rd: The focus of library block in the PreK-3rd grade range is on proper care of books, identification of the parts of a book, distinguishing between the beginning, middle and end of a story, examination of fiction and nonfiction resources, and awareness of the location of different kinds of books in the library. 2nd/3rd graders publish "Book Chats," short reviews of books we have shared in the library, throughout the year. All</p>



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	<p>1st-3rd graders are invited to participate in academic competitions including PSIA and Spelling Bee.</p> <p>4th-8th: Upper elementary and middle school grades focus on publishing projects related to literature, maintaining respect for the intellectual property of others (ie. plagiarism, citing sources), becoming wise consumers of information, and promoting personal and electronic safety. A resounding theme for older students in the 21st century is the importance of self-accountability, and this is emphasized as a part of each topic and project we undertake. Students enrolled in 4th-8th grades are invited to participate in academic competitions including PSIA and Spelling Bee.</p>
Physical Education	<p>Physical Education at SJCS is an important part of our school's motto – Teaching the Mind, Nourishing the Soul- by integrating the mind, body and spirit. In P.E., our students will acquire affective, psychomotor, and cognitive skills while attaining a positive, healthy attitude towards physical activity. The P.E. classes focus on individual and team sports as well as personal fitness and conditioning in every grade level.</p>
Spanish Pre-K -5th	<p>Each Pre-Kindergarten class attends Spanish 2-3 times a week for 25 minutes. Basic vocabulary is taught through songs, stories, role play and use of various media such as books, computer programs and our in-class Promethean board.</p> <p>The Kindergarten through fifth grade classes attend Spanish 3-4 times weekly for 25 minutes. Basic vocabulary skills are introduced and reviewed at this level. Cross-curricular studies help to enhance the connection of the language with their world.</p> <p>More specifically, at the Kindergarten through second grade levels we utilize a method known as Total Physical Response (TPR). This system uses gestures in combination with words and phrases for students to better recall vocabulary as they learn it. "Recycling" of previously learned words is cumulative throughout the year. Reading and writing skills are introduced at these levels.</p> <p>At the third through fifth grade levels, in addition to TPR, we utilize the method known as Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS). Through these methods a strong emphasis is placed on cooperative learning through story-telling, role playing, conversational drills, and other group activities. This work is supplemented with</p>



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worksheet assignments and textbooks from the *¡Viva el Español!* series. At this level, students continue to build their vocabulary, as well as, develop their skills in listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

All classes learn basic prayers in Spanish, as well as the connection between the traditions of our Catholic faith and the Hispanic culture. Art activities are also occasionally implemented in their cultural studies. In addition, student based learning is supported at all grade levels through the use of an interactive Promethean board. This technological tool enables students to have hands-on learning experiences with various supplemental activities online. Video streaming, interactive flipcharts, and current events are accessible to enhance our learning experience!