



Building Community at Corpus Christi



# Welcome

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Corpus Christi School!

As we celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> year of educating the children of the Palisades and surrounding communities, we are thankful for the spirit of the Sisters of St. Louis, the founders of our school.

These good Sisters have left a legacy that speaks of

- Faith
- Excellence
- Love
- Leadership
- Humility

...and so many more qualities that we strive to inculcate in the heart of each child who is a member of the Corpus Christi family.

Family is what we are all about – our Family of Faith has a strong core in the partnership between school and parents in the formation of our children.

We invite you to look, to ask questions, and to be welcome in

“Our School, Our Community, Our Home.”

Sincerely,  
Catherine Carvalho  
Principal



## Religion & Leadership

Corpus Christi School is founded on a vision, “an educational philosophy in which faith, culture, and life are brought into harmony.” The school’s mission is to inculcate in the students an awareness of God and reverence for His Presence in oneself and in all others. The foundation of Corpus Christi School is built on providing a strong academic program and a religious environment that “permeates, supports, and sustains the whole curriculum.”

Through a nurturing Christian atmosphere, students discover their gifts and talents and thus find ways to use their gifts to make a difference in their school, local community, and even in the context of the global community. Corpus Christi challenges each student to accept his/her Baptismal call to be a follower and a disciple of Christ. Students are involved as leaders in Student Council, church lectors, cantors, altar servers, Christian service activities, and projects. In this way, they develop an understanding of the need for social justice and leadership in the Catholic community.

The Religion curriculum, the spiritual environment, and the role modeling by administration, teachers and staff make Corpus Christi a unique school in helping to nurture the leaders of tomorrow. Kindness, acceptance, compassion, and sensitivity are highlighted so that students become Christian leaders and are able to go forth in the world and spread the message and the Good News of Jesus to others.



## Primary and Elementary School

Instilling confidence and a strong sense of self is an important focus in the lower grades. Core subjects are taught in smaller groups for personalized attention to develop each student's talents. English, reading, mathematics, science, social studies, religion and Spanish make up the core curriculum while art, music and physical education complete the course of study. Students concentrate on basic reading and writing skills to establish foundational competencies and inspire creative thinking.

- \* Catholic beliefs and values are taught at grade-appropriate levels
- \* Christian service is emphasized
- \* Classes attend Mass weekly
- \* Phonetic-based instruction in Kindergarten
- \* Small reading groups
- \* School-wide writing program across all subjects
- \* Hands-on discovery learning beginning in Kindergarten
- \* Concepts of algebra, geometry, and statistics are interwoven throughout the curriculum beginning in Kindergarten
- \* Dedicated art and music teachers serving all grade
- \* 1-to-1 iPad Program for every child in grades K-8



## Middle School

Skill development and process is emphasized so students learn to master extensive material as they move to the next grade level. The curriculum continues with an emphasis on independent and critical thinking, students develop strategies and research skills essential to success in future studies. Combining these core elements with cutting-edge technology ensures each student a comprehensive educational experience.

### Faith-Based Instruction

- \* Catholic beliefs and values are taught with the inclusion of Christian Service as faith in action
- \* Classes attend Mass weekly

### Language Arts

- \* School-wide writing program across all subjects
- \* Creative writing

### Science and Math

- \* Concepts of algebra, geometry, and statistics are interwoven throughout the curriculum
- \* Small math groups for 2nd – 8th grades
- \* Algebra taught in 7th (Pre-Algebra) and 8th (Algebra) grades

### Fine Arts

- \* Dedicated art and music teachers serving all grades
- \* Choir
- \* Drama in 3rd - 8th grades

### Technology

- \* 1-to-1 iPad Program in for every child in grades K-8
- \* Research, critical thinking skills and analysis of web-based information are stressed

## Middle School (continued)

Each September, Corpus Christi students (3rd – 8th grades) take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, “ITBS,” a nationally normed test of academic achievement. Our students’ tests scores show that on average all grades performed significantly above grade level. Statistics for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class of 2010, taking the standardized tests at grade equivalent 8.1 (eighth grade, first month) show that the **median** score (the student who scored in the middle) for the Language Battery was 12.0 (senior in high school) and Math Problem Solving was 11.0 (junior in high school). In other words, Corpus Christi 8<sup>th</sup> graders are testing at an advanced high school level.



## Academic Decathlon

During, Corpus Christi's first time ever in competition, the Decathlon team competed against over 100 schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Our team of academically strong 7th and 8th graders competed in the "Super Quiz", "Logic Quiz", and Individual subjects. Four students placed in the [top ten](#) for their subjects from over 1200 students. To be selected for the team, students must have strong grades and standardized test scores, and they must be willing to put in extra time before and after school to study. The reward is an exciting and exhausting Decathlon day at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. Family, friends, and faculty come to cheer on their teams!

# School Counselor

The mission of the school counseling program is to assist students with successfully acquiring and maintaining the necessary academic, interpersonal and intrapersonal skills to live as spiritually centered individuals within their school society and community. Collaboration between parents, administration, and faculty provides a nurturing arena in which the needs of each student are comprehensively addressed. Counseling services are driven by the premise that students learn best when they are aware of being cared for, feel acknowledged, hear encouragement, and believe that they are valued. Our interactions with students and parents are based on the belief that nurturing environments produce life-long learners who also value the diverse opinions and perspectives of others as part of the whole community. An interest in collaboration between parents, administration, and faculty speaks volumes about our confidence in the fact that teamwork increases student potential and reinforces the importance of being part of a faith-based community. The cultivation of respectful relationships between students, faculty, and parents promotes all that Catholic education represents and is an ongoing occurrence in the lives of those who join the Corpus Christi team. The counseling program is designed to assist in providing students with opportunities to succeed in school, in life, and in spirit through its contribution to a safe and happy environment which is conducive to learning and growing to meet full potential.



## Matriculation

Each year several of the top high schools in the Los Angeles area are invited to High School Night to meet with our middle school students and their parents. This provides the students an opportunity to learn more about each institution and about where their higher education needs may be best met.

They are:

Loyola, Marymount, Louisville, Notre Dame, Notre Dame Academy, St. Monica, Crespi and Chaminade High Schools actively recruit our students.

98% of Corpus Christi graduates are accepted into their first choice high school. Many of our students have, over the years, been awarded scholarships to prestigious schools in Los Angeles. This academic success continues for our graduates into college. Included below are some of the outstanding institutions that Corpus Christi graduates have matriculated to after high school in the last 4 years:

Berkeley, Brown University, Boston College, Boston University, CAL, Colorado College, Columbia University, Dartmouth, Georgetown, George Washington University, Harvard, Lehigh, Marquette, Notre Dame, Rhode Island School of Design, UCLA, USC, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis, University of Pennsylvania, SMU, Stanford, Tulane, Yale.



# Technology

## **Mission for Academic Technology**

As described in the overall mission of Corpus Christi School, the purpose of Catholic education is to prepare students to be faith-filled, productive and caring adults. Within this context, we believe that technology is a tool for learning that expands our instructional repertoire and is the vehicle that maximizes the capacity of all teachers and learners. It is the vision of Corpus Christi School that students be engaged in a stimulating academic environment and a challenging curriculum that is student-centered and focused on inquiry-based learning.

Specifically, we envision that technology is available and effectively supported for all students and staff:

- To provide global access to information
- To meet the curricular needs of all learners
- To provide access to the general curriculum
- To refine critical thinking skills and foster creativity
- To provide a medium for expression and communication
- To collect, assess, and share performance information
- To improve the effectiveness of administrative tasks
- To provide skills and proficiencies necessary for the workforce



## Technology (continued)

### **Program Structure**

The learning of technology is integrated across the curriculum to enable new ways of teaching and learning. Students gain hands-on experience in the use of current and emerging technologies.

***Every student in grades K-8 has 1-to-1 access to an iPad.***

This mobile technology is revolutionizing the way teaching and learning take place, and Corpus Christi School is proud to be in the vanguard of this approach to 21<sup>st</sup> Century education.

In support of differentiated learning, teachers use technical tools such as SmartBoards and our secure social learning community (Edmodo), to empower and diversify their modes of instruction. Edmodo provides classrooms a safe and easy way to connect and collaborate, offering a real-time platform to exchange ideas, share content, and access homework, grades and school notices.

Finally, teaching each student to make responsible choices to use technology ethically and safely is a critical foundation of our program.



## Sports

At Corpus Christi we offer a variety of after school sports to boys and girls in grades 5 through 8. The team sports are volleyball, football, basketball and soccer. Individual sports include track, cross country, bowling and golf. Our program has been very popular, with over 90% of the student body participating each year. We have a "no cuts" policy at Corpus Christi which provides an opportunity for each and every student to experience athletic involvement."

We have been quite successful over the years due to the participation rate and also because 99% of our coaches are faculty members. The positive relationships between coaches and students foster healthy competition and attitudes of good sportsmanship.

Another important key to our after school program and physical education classes is our athletic facility. Our newly renovated gym gives our teams an edge by enabling them to practice without weather restrictions. Our outdoor courts give us the necessary space to field multiple teams. Additionally, our long standing alliance with the park allows us to practice and play football games on a regulation size field.



## Sports (continued)

The formation of character is a constant throughout Corpus Christi's athletic program. Our goal is to provide a balance of exercise, education, competition and fun while training athletes with passion and heart.

Go Wildcats!



## Compassionate Outreach

Corpus Christi outreach develops students who proactively give of themselves to improve the lives of others, and who graduate prepared and committed to make the world a better place.

We help improve the lives and educational experience of students at our sister school, St. Raphael's, through an annual spring fundraiser.

In addition, we expose each grade to a different social issue, empowering them to make a difference through hands-on interaction and sharing their efforts with the student body.

Our focus issues include military troop support, homelessness, after school programs, disaster relief, foster/adoptive care and senior citizen living, among others.



## Clubs, Field Trips and Celebrations

Academic Decathlon  
Student Council  
Yoga  
Drama  
Choir  
Cheerleading  
Art  
Young Authors  
Robotics  
Homework club  
Altar Servers-Christian Service  
Girl Scouts  
Boy Scouts  
Piano Lessons  
Singing Lessons  
Tutoring  
Summer Reading Clubs for required reading

Each grade has numerous field trips designed specifically to integrate classroom curriculum with "in the field learning." From field trips to the Long Beach Aquarium and the California Science Museum in Kindergarten to the Mission at San Juan Capistrano for the fourth grade and Middle School trips to the Museum of Tolerance and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, all are designed to give our students a hands-on approach to learning.

We have several festivals throughout the school year on campus for Halloween, Christmas, St. Valentine's Day, and Easter. We also celebrate raising money for our sister school, St. Raphael's, by having a soc hop marathon produced and run by our children.



## Emergency Preparedness

Corpus Christi School maintains a comprehensive Emergency Plan developed by a law enforcement professional which covers the following scenarios:

- \* Earthquake
- \* Fire
- \* General Evacuation
- \* Intruder/Gunman

The purpose of the plan is to make the school, in the event of an emergency, as self-reliant as possible until professional emergency responders arrive.

The primary responsibility is to confirm that the plan is regularly drilled by the faculty and students, and to ensure that the school has the emergency supplies necessary to provide food, shelter and first aid for all students and faculty for 72 hours.

The school rehearses the plan monthly, alternating emergency scenarios from month to month.

Each classroom stocks "disaster packs" and our Emergency Storage Units house food, water, first aid materials, blankets and sanitation supplies.

Each September, the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator is responsible for confirming that the classroom disaster packs and the school's central emergency supply inventory is fully stocked, and that perishables are within their expiration dates.



## Innovation Corridor

### “The Dream Project”

The “Dream Project,” is a great new multipurpose building that is designed to become an “intersection” between technology and aesthetics. A modern area for group learning in the setting of a 21<sup>st</sup> century traditional and technological library sciences reinforces a much needed focal point to the school and our mission. Spotighting our new 1:1 ipad program, this flexible space with movable walls is designed to be used on a daily basis, able to accommodate 4 grade levels simultaneously. Specifically designed with the intent to encourage creativity our goal is to push the realm of possibilities of traditional academic learning.

The 1<sup>st</sup> floor reception area will be a place to proclaim our Catholic Identity. With it’s floor to ceiling glass the space will be an art gallery to display our children’s academic, artistic and athletic accomplishments. A closed circuit screen will allow for “real time” viewing of events being held in the school gym and when not in use will serve as an electronic bulletin board for the community. Sliding glass panels opening to the grassy courtyard will allow for increased meeting space for school and family events.

The Dream Project building reinforces who we are as a Catholic people and as a people who recognize that our children should be given every opportunity to be prepared for their 21<sup>st</sup> century lives.



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