

Educational Programs

GACS provides a competitive academic program with commitment to Catholic education as the central focus. The core subjects include religion, language arts, science, mathematics, social studies, composition (Grades 6-8) and Spanish (Grades 6-8). The middle school students have three periods of physical education, one period of technology and one period of health, art, and music weekly. Library and guidance are offered to the middle school students on occasion. The students in grades Kindergarten through five have two periods of physical education, one period of technology, Spanish, art, music, library, and guidance weekly. Students in grades 3 -5 have one period of health a week.

Teachers collaborate with the music, art and technology teachers to integrate subject content material. Catholic doctrine, faith experiences and morality are constantly integrated into the academic subjects. Traditional testing, standardized testing, performance-based assessment, peer evaluation and self-assessment are various ways student progress is followed. Portfolios and/or rubrics are tools also used to measure the academic growth of students. At the middle school level, an advanced class is offered in Math for students who have been identified by standardized test scores, placement test and teacher recommendation as being proficient enough to handle the accelerated math track. The guidance counselor, along with the students' teachers, create Student Support Plans when needed.

Educational Programs for Kindergarten

The goal for each class at GACS is to provide a developmentally appropriate learning environment for all students. For this reason, each class is grounded in curriculum and assessment, enrichment, faith, and a variety of teaching practices that allow for each child to find his/her own place in the classroom.

Curriculum Model

- Diocese of St. Petersburg Benchmarks and Standards
- Florida Sunshine State Standards
- Math Their Way and Touch Math philosophy of a hands-on, manipulative rich environment
- Shared and Guided Reading
- Reader's and Writer's Workshop and 6 Traits Writing Model
- "Growing in Love" – Family Life program (Harcourt Publishers)

Enrichment

- Arts and Music Night
- Book Fair
- Career Day
- Differentiated learning
- Field Day
- Fourth Grade Buddies/Reading Buddies
- Guidance
- Hands-on learning

- Jump Rope for Heart
- Media Center Instruction
- Off campus field trips related to class themes
- On campus field trips related to class and school themes
- Spanish Class
- Starfall Beginning Language/Reading Program
- Winter Wonderland Walk

Assessment

- “Hiding Assessment” to determine placement for addition groups
- 6 Traits Writing Assessment
- Individualized student assessment to guide instruction
- Ongoing teacher observations and evaluations
- Portfolio assessment
- Reading records

Subject Integration

- All curricular areas are integrated into varied thematic units
- Cooperative/shared planning between grade level teachers
- Catholic teachings and social values are integrated into all subject areas

Educational Approaches

- Eye-hand coordination activities
- Fine motor development
- Gross motor development
- Hands-on approach
- Movement/music/dramatic play
- Shared Reading incorporates reading/writing and art for every follow-up activity
- Use of manipulatives
- Visual/listening activities

Programs That Promote Spirituality, Service, Social Justice and Moral/Ethical Issues

- Bible/thematic/literature based
- Christmas program
- Class Mass
- First Friday Rosary
- Mission-HCA
- Morning and Afternoon Prayer
- Ornaments for Ronald McDonald House
- Prayer Services
- Student/teacher created Song, Prayer and Poetry Book

- Weekly “Shining Star”

Educational Programs for Grades 1-2

Curriculum Model

- Diocese of St. Petersburg Standards and Benchmarks
- Florida Sunshine State Standards
- 6 Traits of Writing
- “Growing in Love” – Family Life program (Harcourt Publishers)

Enrichment

- Arts and Music Night
- Book It Program sponsored by Pizza Hut
- Book Fair
- Buddy Reading
- Career Day
- Differentiated Learning
- Field Day
- Field Trips
- Flat Stanley
- Guest speakers
- Hands-on learning activities
- Invention Convention
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Math manipulatives
- News Reporter
- Scholastic’s Kids Are Authors Contests (2005)
- Seventh Grade Buddies
- Special projects
- Spotlight on Me
- Student Presentations
- Super Star math program
- Videos
- Writing contests
- Winter Wonderland Walk

Assessment

- Assessment through cooperative learning activities
- Formal – written and oral tests and quizzes
- Individual assessment

- Informal – student projects and presentations
- ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) Grade 2
- Portfolios
- Rubrics – writing, projects and presentations
- Teacher observation
- Vision and language screening
- Progress Reports
- Student self-evaluation
- Writing

Subject Integration

- Present in all areas of the curriculum
- Catholic teachings and social values are integrated into all subject areas
- Subjects are integrated into themes and benchmark goals
- Writing across the curriculum integrated into all subject areas

Educational Approaches

- Auditory
- Cooperative groups
- Florida friendly gardens Grade 1
- Kinesthetic
- Learning centers
- Lecture
- Research reports
- Role playing
- Student presentations
- Videos
- Visual
- Whole groups

Programs That Promote Spirituality, Service, Social Justice and Moral/Ethical Issues

- Christmas Carols to Seniors
- Class liturgies
- Contemplative guided prayer
- Faith Sharing Committee
- First Communion preparation
- First Friday Rosary
- First Reconciliation preparation
- Grace before and after meals
- May Prayer Services
- Missions-HCA
- Morning and afternoon prayer

- Reconciliation Services
- Rosary take-home kit
- Sacramental take-home kit
- Saint Nick's Nook for Holy Childhood Association
- Saint Parade
- Scholastic "Care" Reading Literacy Program
- Seder Meal
- Stations of the Cross
- Weekly Lectionary

Educational Programs for Grades 3-5

Curriculum Model

- Diocese of St. Petersburg Standards and Benchmarks
- Florida Sunshine State Standards
- 6 Traits of Writing
- "Growing in Love" – Family Life program (Harcourt Publishers)

Enrichment

- After school tutoring
- Arts and Music Night
- Integration of Social Issues and Current Events
- Assessment through cooperative learning activities
- Competitions
- Computer research
- Curriculum based projects
- DARE
- Enterprise Village (5)
- Everyday calendar math
- Field Day
- Field trips
- Guest speakers
- Health
- Individual and small group learning projects
- Informal-student projects and daily work
- Integration of Social Issues and Current Events
- Internet research
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Math at CCC (4)
- Math manipulatives
- News Bowl

- Peer evaluation
- Student Presentations
- Science experiments and labs
- Sports (5)
- Student self-evaluation
- Tropicana Speech
- Videos
- Winter Wonderland Walk
- Writing Across the curriculum

Assessments

- Assessment through cooperative learning activities
- ACRE (Assessment for Catechists/Religious Education)Test-religion (Grade 5)
- Formal- written and oral tests and quizzes
- Informal-student projects and daily work
- ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills)
- Peer evaluation
- Progress Reports
- Standardized Writing test (Grade 5)
- Student self-evaluation
- Writing

Subject Integration

- Application of subject area knowledge as it relates to social issues and current events
- Catholic teachings and social values are integrated into all subject areas
- Liturgy themes integrate with social issues and current events
- Writing Across the curriculum

Educational Approaches

- After school tutoring
- Competitions
- Computer practice, application and research
- Everyday calendar math
- Group discussion
- Individual and small group learning projects
- Lectures in large group classroom activities in all subject areas
- Presentations
- Projects
- Reports
- Science labs
- Videos

Programs That Promote Spirituality, Service, Social Justice, and Moral/Ethical Issues

- Afternoon prayer
- Class Masses
- First Friday Rosary
- Guest speakers
- Missions-HCA
- Monthly class Mass
- Morning and afternoon prayer
- Prayer services
- Reconciliation
- Retreats
- Stations of the Cross
- Weekly contemplative guided prayer
- Weekly Lectionary

Educational Programs for Grades 6-8

Curriculum Model

- “Growing in Love” – Family Life program (Harcourt Publishers)
- Diocese of St. Petersburg Standards and Benchmarks
- Florida Sunshine State Benchmarks
- 6 Traits of Writing

Enrichment

- After School Tutoring
- Anthology of Writing (8)
- Talent Showcase (8)
- BETA Club (8)
- Career Day
- CCC Academic Bowl (7&8)
- Celebration of the Arts
- Celebration of Learning
- Dances
- Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest
- Duke Talent Search
- Field Day
- Field trips
- Finance Park (8)
- Elementary Buddies (7&8)
- Geography Bee
- Guest speakers

- Guidance
- Health
- Interdisciplinary projects
- Internet research
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Media Instruction
- Morning TV broadcasts
- News Bowl
- Pinellas County Science Fair
- Political elections
- School Science Fair
- Service oriented projects
- Sports Program
- Student Council
- Videos
- Walk and Talk
- Winter Wonderland Walk

Assessments

- ACRE (Assessment for Catechists/Religious Education)Test-religion (Grade 8)
- Formal-tests, quizzes/homework/class work/projects
- Integrated curriculum
- ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills)
- Portfolio assessment
- Probationary reports
- Progress reports
- Projects/activities require cross-curricular skills
- Science laboratory experiments i.e. Dissections
- Standardized Writing test (Grade 7)
- Student presentations
- Subject integration
- Teacher observation
- Virtual interactive labs
- Writing in all subjects

Educational Approaches

- After school tutoring
- Competitions
- Formal-tests, quizzes/homework/class work/projects
- Games
- Group discussion

- Heterogeneous groupings in math and science
- Individual/group projects
- Large and small group instruction
- Lecture
- Media/internet
- Portfolio assessment
- Projects

- Special needs students (Gr 8) not required to take Spanish
- Student presentations
- Videos

Programs that promote spirituality, service, social justice, and moral/ethical issues

- Adopt-A-Platoon-Iraq
- Adopt-a-Family Christmas Project
- Afternoon prayer
- Altar Servers
- Christmas Drive
- Current families in crisis due to health
- Daystar-migrant workers
- Dolan Trust Fund
- Edinborough Nursing Home, Dunedin, FL
- First Friday Rosary
- Grace before and after meal
- Hospice, Florida Suncoast
- Katrina Relief
- Ki Fungilo Catholic Church, Mesange Primary School, Rosminian Formation Center all of Lushato, Tanzania
- Kimberly House, Clearwater
- Lenten and Advent services
- Leukemia Society
- Metropolitan Ministries
- Missions-HCA and more
- Morning and afternoon prayer
- Monthly liturgy
- Reconciliation
- Retreats
- Salvation Army, Clearwater
- St. Ignatius of Antioch Food Pantry
- St. Joseph's School, Ambler, PA
- Stations of the Cross

- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Tsunami Relief
- Walk for Life
- Women of the Bible Fashion Show