

History of St. Joseph Parish continued.

1925 – 2003

St. Joseph School Today



r. Jean Rene, SND, was principal of the school from 1993 – 1997. Now Angela M. Coombs is principal overseeing the education of about 500 Students. As of 2002, an assistant principal was added. Double classes are needed for grades 1 – 8 and kindergarten. There is only one class of pre-kindergarten. Of the 37 facility and staff members, 10 hold Master's Degrees and all are certified by the Florida Department of Education. Sr. Ellen Beebe, the only Notre Dame Sister remaining here, is in charge of the school music program with a junior and senior choir. Tuition has understandably risen from the original \$10.00 to \$250.00 monthly with adjustments when several from one family are enrolled. Fr. Bluett is committed to paying the teachers 100 percent of the county salary while still keeping the tuition one of the lowest in the Orlando Diocese.

The school is now networked to keep pace with current technology. It has a web page, www.polkschools, and the library is completely automated. A butterfly garden grows in front of the gymnasium and a prayer garden for quiet reflection and prayers is planned. A sports program includes competitive basketball, soccer, volleyball on both the junior and varsity level. Students practice on the air-conditioned gymnasium. Track with cheerleaders round out the sports program.

A Booster Club was added in 2002 to support the athletic program. The school is also supported by an active PTO, a hospitality committee and a room mothers organization.

The school is fully accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference, and students exceed state standards in national testing. The students frequently achieve honors in state and local competitions, particularly in science. Many students graduate with credit in algebra and credit in Spanish if they pass the high school placement. Test. In addition to the require curriculum students also have instruction in music, physical education, library and computer.