

Nativity



Nativity Catholic School Facts

ACCREDITATION

Nativity Catholic School is fully accredited by the Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation (WRISA), an accrediting organization. We are also a member of the National Catholic Education Association and the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development. Additionally, our staff has memberships in a variety of professional organizations that meet their ongoing development as quality educators and support staff members.

ENROLLMENT

Over 250 students are enrolled in grades preschool through eighth grade. There are typically two classrooms of each grade through fifth grade, with junior high split into homerooms by grade level. We strive to maintain a student/teacher ratio of no more than 16:1 at the K-5 levels.

FACULTY

Nativity Catholic teachers are highly qualified educators. The staff includes full-time and part-time credentialed teachers with bachelor's or master's degrees. We also have preschool aides, librarians, hot lunch program personnel, and secretaries, all who make our school the success that it is.

CURRICULUM

Nativity Catholic offers a comprehensive faith-based curriculum that values challenging academic, spiritual, physical and social educational experiences. The curriculum meets or exceeds diocesan, state, and national standards.

LET THE CHILDREN COME.

Welcome to Nativity of Our Lord Catholic School! Here at our school, we provide high academic standards, challenging our students to levels of intellectual excellence. We develop learners of faith, inspiring them to become models of Christ who live faith values and are respectful of self and others. And with parents as our partners, we guide our students to be faith-filled citizens who provide service to others by their actions and their words.

Through smaller class sizes, dedicated teaching professionals and support staff, challenging curriculum, and an inspired learning environment, Nativity Catholic helps students to shine. Nativity Catholic provides a setting where faculty, students, and families can learn and grow together. Our school size allows staff, students, and families to develop close relationships and make personal connections. There is a sense of security and well-being in knowing that everyone appreciates and helps one another.

Students at Nativity Catholic can participate fully in their faith-based activities. In addition to attendance at weekly school Masses, students learn more about our God in religion classes and through sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Students grow in their responsibilities as disciples and recognize that kindness toward others is more than just an expectation, but is how they should live.

Our teachers and staff truly make a difference in the education of our students. Our students perform exceptionally well on the academic assessments taken three

times during the school year, and our eighth graders go on to successful educational careers at the high school level. Students from our school consistently place in the top ten percent of their high school graduating classes due to their strong academic foundations.

In keeping with the infusion of technology into schools, all of our K-8 classrooms have Smart Boards (interactive white boards) installed. Our South Building site is enhanced with a computer lab and our North Building site features an iPad station. Students K-8 work on Smart Boards, laptops, iPads, and Chrome Books throughout the day doing research, Google Apps, and programming to meet curriculum guidelines. Technology is an integral component of our school day.

We are proud to share information about our school and invite you to take a closer look at what Nativity Catholic has to offer. With over 113 years of commitment to educational excellence, Catholic faith values, and service to others, Nativity Catholic is dedicated to the development and success of every student that walks through our doors. We invite you to contact us for a personal tour so you can experience, first-hand, the warm and welcoming atmosphere that is Nativity Catholic School.

Blessings,
Shirley Heise, Principal
sheise@nativity.me

Mission Statement

In partnership with family, parish and community we provide a caring environment that teaches Catholic faith, Christian values, a love for learning, and a commitment to service while fostering the ability to achieve one's greatest potential.

We believe that every facet of life is important and that all children are valuable because their lives come from God. We believe in creating an environment that encourages a love for learning and nurtures the unique gifts and talents of each child.

We believe in improving the quality of life for all people through a commitment to service.

We believe in teaching our students the faith values and beliefs of the Catholic Church and the means by which to live them. We believe in engaging each child with challenging and enthusiastic instruction.

We believe that individual instruction fosters life-long learning.



Highlights by Grade

The entire Nativity Catholic School educational program encompasses the teaching of religious values, positive attitudes, and self-discipline.

Preschool and 4-year-old Kindergarten (Early Childhood Programs)

Nativity Catholic School offers a two-year Early Childhood Program for 3- and 4-year-old children that is both faith-based and academic in nature. The students have opportunities to meet new friends, familiarize themselves with the school environment, and develop an interest in learning. Both programs focus on the development of the whole child, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Through engagement in our Early Childhood Program children will:

- Learn through active participation and genuine interest
- Learn to respect others, share, take turns, and listen
- Learn to appreciate nature and all of God's gifts
- Learn how Jesus is important in their lives
- Learn new skills and how to problem-solve

Kindergarten

Our kindergarten classroom provides a close, warm, and caring environment that stimulates academic achievement and develops each child's sense of community and self-worth. We make God the center of our daily activities. The curriculum is based on the philosophy that young children learn best when they are actively involved in their learning. We offer a hands-on approach through the use of manipulatives, interactive technology, books and experimental discovery.

A strong emphasis is placed on language arts: D'Nealian format of letter formation, phonics, word walls and Big Books. Daily activities also include the teaching of religion, readiness activities, mathematics, and social skills through free play time. Spanish, computers, physical education, art, and music are also components in the weekly curriculum.

To help students grow to become more independent and to feel good about themselves, we find it important to actively participate in our weekly Masses. Students prepare readings, sing, bring up gifts, and greet parishioners attending Mass.

First Grade

First grade brings a year filled with new adventures and learning! Instruction is focused on reading, phonics, spelling, and writing. Through creative projects and child-centered activities, first graders develop a love for reading and language arts. The children also develop skills in using non-fiction text to explore topics in science and social studies.

Math concepts taught to first graders include: addition, subtraction, place value, money, telling time, measurement, geometry, and graphing. Students explore math through a variety of differentiated experiences including the use of manipulatives, drawing, computing, and problem solving. Technology plays an integral role in our classrooms through the use of Smart Boards, iPads, and personal computers.

Children in first grade strengthen their relationships with God through formal and informal daily prayer, Mass participation, and service to others. Our children grow in their Catholic faith and love for Jesus as they actively participate in various forms of worship throughout the liturgical year.



STUDENTS EXCEL at Nativity through learning and serving:

Second Grade

Second grade students are inherently prepared for the religious sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. During this special year of sacramental preparation, the children also learn to be servers at Mass and to take lead roles in music ministry for our weekly Masses. Students in second grade study the history of African Americans in their social studies curriculum. One component of that study focuses on the life of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. The culmination of the unit includes a trip to the Children's Museum in Eagle River where they have the opportunity to reenact what it was really like to be a part of the Underground Railroad experience.

To encourage children to develop a love of reading, students participate in reading incentive programs. During the winter months, "Reading is 'Snow Much' Fun" fills the minutes between classroom work and incorporates at-home reading with parents. The "600 Minute Challenge" keeps students reading throughout the spring with a goal to read 600 minutes each month. Reading Shoes line the hallways as students earn a shoe for each 60 minutes read—students and staff set goals to earn enough shoes to go around the entire building!

Third Grade

Third grade is an extremely important grade level for transitioning from primary grades to intermediate and, eventually, middle school. A great deal of energy is focused on strengthening reading, grammar, and writing skills. Each student writes a five-paragraph research paper that integrates written language skills, use of outside resources, and organization of information.

Social Studies curriculum emphasizes community building and citizenship, beginning with the study of local communities and the responsibilities of those who live there and ending with national citizenship and the rights and freedoms we have as responsible citizens.

Science in third grade offers students opportunities to explore animal and plant life; rocks, minerals and soil; matter, motion, and energy; and finally, space, and technology. The study of Mathematics is focused on multiplication and division facts laying a strong foundation for future Math success.

Religion classes for third graders focus on the main truths that are expressed through the Apostles' Creed. The students learn about the church, while knowing that Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to bring life, peace, and harmony to the church and to us.

Fourth Grade

Rooted in every aspect of a fourth grade student's day is the study and practice of our faith. The highlights of our academic year include a variety of cross-curricular activities and projects. The "Scientists' Convention" takes place in the first semester, combining computer skills, speech, research, writing, and creativity. The project is thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who participates and attends.

Fourth graders focus on the regions of the United States and the state of Wisconsin, investigating history through a variety of activities culminating with the Nativity School "County Fair." Fourth grade students are required to read textbooks, but are additionally challenged with literary materials that include novels, plays, nonfiction selections, and poetry. Weekly news, weather, and sports broadcasts provide further opportunities for the development of reading, writing, and speaking skills. Finally, writing across the curriculum is stressed throughout the entire school year. By examining the work of famous authors, students learn to excel in writing.

- All students participate in special community and global service projects
- Small class sizes enhance the individual development of each child
- Outstanding technology includes computer lab with internet
- An outdoor classroom at the South Building location cultivates hands-on learning
- Participation in music, art, clubs, and extracurricular activities increase student engagement at Nativity
- Catholic values build a foundation of faith that will last a lifetime

Core Values Statement

Core Values are gifts from God, our creator, and a foundation for life. Nativity Catholic School supports and protects the integrity of these gifts through faith-based educational experiences.

Nativity Catholic School's
Core Values:

- Love and acceptance of self and others
- Compassion, honesty, and generosity
- Stewardship and service to others
- Accountability to self and others
- Excellence in education

Fifth Grade

During their fifth grade year, students participate in a yearlong, economic study called "Youth Marketplace." This program is incorporated into the various sections of our school curriculum to include mathematics, writing, and speaking. The students are taught skills that promote entrepreneurship, creative problem solving, and critical thinking.

The Social Studies curriculum provides opportunities to participate in various simulations of the lives of explorers and the American Revolution. In Science, students study plant and animal cells, ecosystems, and the solar system. One component of the Science curriculum includes a trip to the KOVAC Planetarium in Monico, WI. Travel to this man-made planetarium is a highlight of the school year for the students.

Fifth grade students focus on the seven sacraments during religion class. The teaching of the sacraments incorporates well-being and love for others, and students are excited to take part in the DARE program offered by our local county sheriffs' department. The DARE officer teaches weekly lessons about staying safe and drug- and alcohol-free. The program culminates with a DARE graduation ceremony.

Fifth grade students also have opportunities to take part in Mileage Club, Band, Youth Choir, and intramural basketball programs. To incorporate the mission of overall wellness into our curriculum, students travel to the local YMCA twice a year.

Junior High

Language Arts

The Language Arts side of our English department at Nativity of Our Lord Catholic School focuses on a demanding, rigorous stream of grammar and professional writing prompts. We strive to promote a correct and thorough understanding of the English language, while at the same time fostering a to-the-point, structured writing style in a professional setting. Each class completes three hands-on, accountability-based papers: a persuasive essay, a step-by-step, and a final research paper/project. As the year progresses, it is a great joy to watch each student improve and grow as a writer.

Literature

The Junior High literature program is designed to form independent readers and writers who are amply prepared to succeed in high school English courses. Each grade level covers most genre types as well as an independent unit where students read and report on choice novels.

Individualized spelling is covered in literature with students taking charge of their own spelling progress. Vocabulary is enhanced via encouraged learning of Latin and Greek root words. Literary terminology is also built upon progressively each year. In addition to weekly writing of summaries of both fiction and non-fiction reads, two formal writing pieces are covered each year in literature: a memoir (non-fiction) and a short story (fiction).

Math

Our school adopted the My Math program for all grades. This mathematics program integrates the use of technology along with classroom instruction. We offer at level and advanced classes including pre-algebra and algebra. Additionally, students from our school that complete algebra as seventh graders attend the local high school for geometry classes as eighth graders.



Students learn hands-on skills in keyboarding, graphic arts, spreadsheets, presentations, online applications, and the ethical use of the internet.



Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

At Nativity Catholic School, we are building the leaders for tomorrow through the opportunities offered today. All students in our school gain experience in public speaking through their roles at weekly Masses. Additionally, students perform at a myriad of events specifically designed for their families such as preschool and 4K programs, Kindergarten Family Night, and theater productions and plays.

The implementation of events such as "The County Fair" for fourth graders and "Youth Marketplace" for fifth graders provide chances for students to develop speaking and entrepreneurial skills. All students have the opportunity to take part in the school Science Fair where they share their experiments and the many aspects of scientific problem solving with members of the community.

Each year our eighth grade students travel to a leadership camp where they engage in a variety of high and low ropes courses, leadership and team building activities, and interpersonal relationship skills that will take them to the next level of educational success. Students learn the importance of working with others collaboratively for the good of all involved.

Social Studies

The social studies classes in seventh and eighth grade both study United States history. The seventh grade finishes just as the Civil War does, and the eighth grade picks up the torch from there to the present. Our students really embrace and thrive in a discussion based learning environment where they are able to actively debate, agree, disagree, and ultimately find understanding in the United States' history! In sixth grade, we journey through ancient history taking a very project based, hands on approach. The sixth grade completes a cross-curricular Egyptian unit: writing a biography, constructing a model tomb, designing and building a sarcophagus, and finally creating a map of ancient Egypt.

Science

Our sixth grade science curriculum focuses on earth science. Units include weathering, erosion, rocks and minerals, soil, plate tectonics, and water. The highlight of the year is a trip to a copper mine and a mineralogical museum in Michigan. The focus for our seventh grade science is on biology. Units include ecology, the cell, genetics, body systems, and animal adaptation and behavior. Highlights for the seventh graders are the dissection of a worm and frog and a weekly adventure into nearby woods to study phenology.

Our eighth grade students study physical science. Units for this grade include Newton's laws, electricity, sound, waves, and chemistry. The eighth grade students work on a year-long research project utilizing the scientific method that is displayed at the annual science fair in April. Students work with members of the local high school, technical college, and businesses in order to learn more about their chosen research projects.

Religion

The sixth grade religion program, Finding God, focuses mainly on Old Testament history and stories. Basic Catholic faith principles are covered, and different forms of prayer are introduced and practiced. A large element of service is introduced in sixth grade, and becomes part of students' religion grade. We reflect the Bible's message to go out and serve one another.

The seventh grade religion program, Following Jesus, focuses mainly on New Testament history and the life of Jesus and the apostles. Catholic principles and beliefs are covered in more detail and depth. Service continues to be a focus as students not only learn what Jesus came to teach us, but also to practice it in our daily lives.

The focus in our eighth grade religion curriculum is on Church history and personal prayer. Units within the school year include salvation history, the creed, the real presence in the Eucharist, and Catholic social teachings.

Extra Curricular Activities



At Nativity, a number of extra-curricular activities are provided so that students learn the importance of being involved, active members of their community.

- Band
- Basketball
- Chess Club
- Chorus
- Computer Lab
- Free Throw Competition
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Math Counts
- Mileage Club (Run/Walk)
- Service Projects
- Solo and ensemble
- Talent Show
- Volleyball
- Youth Choir

Distinguishing Programs

Art

The experiences that abound in our Art program are as varied as the students themselves. Our Art program includes an introduction to a multitude of media. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade are able to express their creativity and talents while learning about important artists, illustrators, and the impact of art on the world.

Athletics and Physical Education

Our Mileage Club running/walking program is offered for students in grades 3-5 during the fall and spring months. Basketball programs are provided for both boys and girls in grades 4-8, and Volleyball is offered for girls in grades 6-8. Our school is a member of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA). We participate in various other athletic activities including the Knights of Columbus Free Throw competition and Jump Rope for Heart.

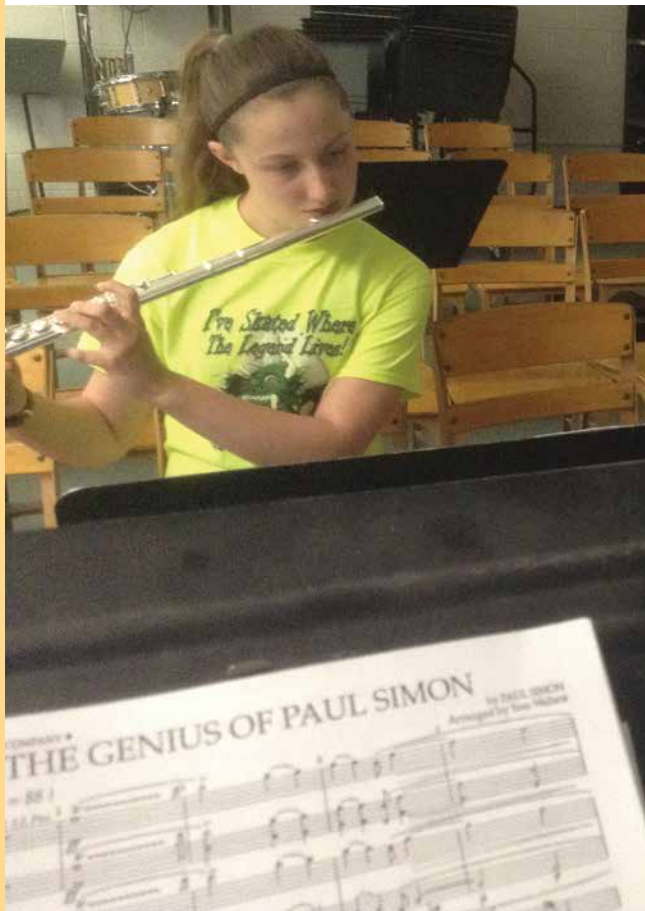
One of the main goals of our physical education program is to make fitness and exercise fun so that students will continue being active throughout their lifetimes. The program lays a firm foundation in basic motor skills, then gradually builds on these skills through increasingly challenging activities.

Students learn about the importance of taking care of themselves through our integrated Health program. Eighth graders have the opportunity to participate in a high school level Health class. Passing and completing this class allows students to be exempt from scheduling a course in Health during their high school careers.

Clubs and Contests

Our students participate in a number of local and state competitions including knowledge and poster contests. Junior high students also take part in our before-school Math Counts program which provides instruction in challenging problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Students have opportunities to take part in afterschool programs such as Open Computer Lab, Chess Club, and tutoring. During the course of the year our students also compete in diocesan spelling bees and the National Geography Bee.



Music and Arts

Our kindergarten, first, and second grade students have fun learning the fundamentals of music such as dynamics, phrasing and tempo, rhythms, and families of instruments. In third grade, students learn to read and write music, and are introduced to various styles of music. Fourth graders learn to play recorders while fifth graders learn to play band instruments. By the end of fifth grade, our students are ready to tackle the junior high music program.

Musical opportunities for students in grades 6-8 are comprised of general music class, chorus, and band. All students must select one area of music performance, but some students do take part in two classes. Each year, the 6-8 grades host a "Night at the Arts" with a concert and wax museum.

All K-8 students are involved in our Christmas Concert and school “Talent Show.” Grades 5-8 perform in two additional concerts during the year.

In addition to our school music programs, we are fortunate to have an amazing parish youth choir. Directed by our parish music liturgist, the youth choir performs at weekend masses throughout the school year. The choir is open to students in grades 3-8. At school masses, classes of students rotate leadership roles, including the music ministry.



Computer Science

Nativity utilizes advanced technologies in our computer lab and classrooms. Our classrooms are equipped with Smart Board interactive technology, as well as iPads, laptops, and Chrome Books. Students in grades 3-8 have regular computer class instruction with much of the curriculum integrating with classroom content areas. Students learn keyboarding and word processing, basic and advanced computer applications, graphic design, and fluency in spreadsheets, databases, and multimedia. Students also use the computers for class projects, research, and programs that raise awareness of global issues such as the program for Free Rice.

Service Projects

Students and staff perform more than 40 service projects during the school year. As we teach our students about the importance of serving God, we take pride in their commitment to meet the needs of others through respect, kindness, and generosity. Nativity students participate in annual service projects, including:

- Collections of food and essential items for food pantries
- Gifts of backpacks and school supplies for local low-income families
- School items sent to needy communities in other countries
- Projects to help military members overseas
- “The Giving Tree”—Christmas gifts for low-income families in our community
- Caroling and treats, bringing the spirit of Christmas to local business owners

Additionally, our junior high students take part in a “Fasting Lock-in” and a “Box City” to raise awareness of hunger and homelessness both in our community and globally.

Spanish

Our students are fortunate to engage in an introduction to the world of Spanish language. Students in grades K-6 meet twice weekly with our Spanish teacher to not only learn a new language, but to explore a culture that is different from the one we know here in Rhinelander. Basic Spanish vocabulary and grammar are taught as well as aspects of the day-to-day lives of people in Paraguay.

With over 113 years of commitment to educational excellence, Catholic faith values, and service to others, Nativity Catholic is dedicated to the development and success of every student that walks through our doors.

If you would like to schedule a personal tour, please call 715.362.5588.



Faith and Social Development

Each year Nativity Of Our Lord Catholic School is raising the standards for our schools with individual attention and caring, academic excellence, and a commitment to service to others.

Calendar of Events

- **September**
 - Welcome back!
 - School Family Welcome Mass
- **October**
 - All-school Mass
 - Feast of St. Francis/Blessing of Pets
 - Open House and Ice Cream Social
 - Grandparents' Day Celebration
- **November**
 - All-Saints Day
 - Annual School Gala
 - Veteran's Day Commemoration/Mass
 - Kindergarten Family Dinner
 - Thanksgiving Feast
- **December**
 - All-school Mass
 - Immaculate Conception
 - Children's Shopping Spree
 - Christmas Concerts (Preschool/4K/K-8)
 - Advent Service Projects
- **January**
 - Endowment Dinner
 - Catholic Schools Week
 - All-school Mass and Regional Schools Mass with Bishop Peter
- **February**
 - DARE Graduation for Fifth Graders
- **March**
 - Kindergarten Screening
 - Second Graders receive Sacrament of First Reconciliation
 - All-school Mass for Feast of St. Joseph
 - Night at the Arts-Band Concert
 - Wax Museum
- **April**
 - Talent Show
 - Science and Sustainability Fair
- **May**
 - First Holy Communion
 - Preschool Mother's Day Tea
 - Mother's Day Plant Sale
 - Careers on Wheels
 - Fourth Grade County Fair
 - Fifth Grade Youth Marketplace
 - Junior High Dance
 - Awards for Students Grades 3-8
 - Eighth Grade Graduation
- **June**
 - 4K Graduation
 - North Building Field Day

Nativity Of Our Lord Catholic School



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