

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

The mission of Catholic schools within the Diocese of Greensburg is to create a Catholic Christian learning environment to prepare students for their life's journey. While parents are the first teachers, the task of our schools is to assist parents in fulfilling their responsibility as primary educators of their children. Schools challenge students to develop their spirituality based on Gospel values. Academic mastery, spirit of justice, and community service with a global perspective will give their lives passion and purpose.

The school participates in this task by designing and implementing curricula that assures academic mastery and fosters age-appropriate spiritual and moral formations. Peace, justice, community service, and a global perspective characterize the school environment, which creates the context within which curricular goals are achieved.

GOALS OF ST. BERNARD SCHOOL

- To accept the responsibility as an early childhood educator in cooperation with others to implement the objectives set forth in the Diocesan Philosophy.
- To accept each child as a unique child of God and reach an acceptance that this uniqueness encompasses all his/her gifts, strengths, needs and dreams in the educational process.
- To provide learning environment conducive to the unique individual and developmental needs of the "whole child".
- To promote positive self esteem by providing child-centered curriculum in a Christ-centered atmosphere.
- To provide opportunities for faculty, staff and parent development that supports the early childhood philosophy.

CURRICULUM

Our early childhood curriculum has been designed by the Diocese of Greensburg Catholic Schools. Included with this packet of registration materials are excerpts of the curriculum from the major areas of study. The complete curriculum is available for your study at the school if you would wish to review.

Our preschool program meets the standards outlined in *Model or Sample Guidelines for Catholic Pre-School, extended Care and Day Care Programs* developed by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) evaluative instrument *Verifying the Vision* is designed to help Catholic elementary school educators and their school communities to ask vital questions concerning the special vision of their school. It helps the evaluation participants to focus upon the basic elements which have been universally recognized by the Church and her educators as well as those factors which are considered to any sound educational process. The evaluation was completed in April, 1991, and St. Bernard School was officially accredited October 23, 1992. St. Bernard School continues to maintain its Middle States Accreditation.