



Frequently Asked Questions

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Office hours: 7:00a.m. -3:30p.m. (closed between 2:15-3:15 for dismissals).

SCHOOL HOURS –

7:15a.m. – Gates open. **7:30a.m.** – Morning flag assembly (prayer, song, salute).
7:45a.m. – Tardy bell rings and classes begin.

Dismissals:

PK/AM – 7:45-10:45a.m.
Grades K-3rd – 7:45 -2:35p.m. Grades 4th-8th – 7:45-2:45p.m.

Annunciation offers a fine, traditional Catholic education emphasizing values, academics, and discipline, in a safe and orderly learning environment. Christian values are integrated into the curriculum helping students develop behaviors and attitudes necessary to grow into spiritual and moral adults. An Annunciation Catholic education offers dividends for life: faith, knowledge, discipline, morals. There is no better investment you can make in your child!

How are we different? As Catholics we are called to serve God and help those in need. Service to others is an important part of our school life. We participate in many local and national service programs to help those who suffer from hardship, natural disasters, and poverty. We work together as a school community, and our parents rate our school highly for its feeling of “family” and unity. Our students know that good behavior is expected at all times and experience a calm, orderly learning environment. We know that you will recognize our students in or out of uniform as they strive to demonstrate a positive Christian example.

ACCREDITATION STATUS –

We are fully accredited in all grades PK – 8th by the Florida Catholic Conference. The FCC, located in Tallahassee, accredits Catholic schools in the states of Florida and Georgia.

BUDDIES –

Younger classes are partnered with older classes. Older students become aware of their responsibility to provide good example for younger students. The younger ones have a “big buddy” to look up to. Students sit with their Buddies during weekly Masses and teachers plan various activities for student interaction during the year. This helps build a strong sense of community and promotes learning for both grades.

CURRICULUM –

The diocesan curriculum is followed in all grades. Our curriculum syllabus is written, reviewed, implemented, and revised for each subject area by our diocesan teachers in three-year cycles. The curriculum incorporates and exceeds Florida’s Sunshine State Standards and National Standards for Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts.

Our strong academic program in language arts, math, science, and social studies challenges students to reach standards of excellence. Daily religion class and attending Mass together weekly as a student body is part of our curriculum. Each grade plans a prayer service during the year to which parents are invited.

Additionally, our students enjoy weekly instruction in areas that enrich and broaden their educational background: *PE, Music, Art, Spanish, Library skills, and Technology education.*

DISCIPLINE POLICY –

This is best described as *choices and consequences*. School policies and classroom expectations are clearly stated. A student choosing not to respect the rules is held accountable for his/her own actions and must deal with the consequences of that choice. Consequences depend on the frequency and severity of the actions and the age of the student.

EXTENDED DAY –

The school offers *Before School Care from 7:00a.m.* and *After School Care until 5:55p.m.* and is available to any enrolled student. *After School Care* includes snack, homework supervision, and indoor and outdoor play.

PK/AM (7:45-10:45) students may “VPK Wraparound” at an additional charge until 2:30.

Students may join our Extended Day program at an additional charge and remain until 6:00.

COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES –

Teachers often sponsor *Math, Art Clubs, Lego Robotics, Choir, Drama, and Chess clubs*. Currently students participate in dance, music, or art as extra-curricular after school activities. Activities depend on the availability of qualified people to teach them and vary from year to year. We welcome volunteers who are interested in providing extracurricular activities that will enrich our students.

FACILITIES –

Annunciation includes an *administration building*, three classroom buildings with *twenty permanent classrooms*, a *media center* which houses the *library and technology lab*, and an *Arts & Science Wing* which includes a science lab, art studio, and music studio. Classrooms have computers and are networked to our well-equipped technology lab; they are also equipped with pen-pads (wireless mini-Smartboards, an iPad, Apple TV), large screens, and state-of-the-art ceiling mounted projectors to show streaming video lessons. The school’s regulation size soccer and softball fields and outside basketball/volleyball court are used for physical education classes. Two playgrounds provide active playing space for our PK-4th grade students. Students enjoy eating lunch outside in the pavilion during fair weather.

FACULTY –

Dedicated, well-qualified teachers challenge students to reach *standards of excellence* in all areas. Our teachers are state certified and teaching in the field of their degrees; 36% have master’s degrees. Students are encouraged by teachers to develop the self-discipline needed for successful adult life through daily homework assignments, wearing school uniforms, and instruction in study skills, time management, and conflict resolution.

Annunciation teachers are committed to discovering the *unique gifts and talents* of each student and nurturing their development. Academic excellence is rooted in strong Catholic values. *Low faculty turnover* offers stability. Our faculty, staff, and families have opportunities to get to know each other enabling them to work together to benefit our students. As of this past school year, we also employ a **Resource Teacher** 5 days a week.

GRADUATES-

Our *graduates* attest to the *strong preparation* received for high school. Many go into advanced placement, honors, or IB programs. Most of our graduates matriculate together to Bishop John Snyder High School. Good reports from both Catholic and public high schools about our graduates’ *success in high school* make us very proud. Many of our graduates are also active in *sports and clubs*. Their high school success is a credit to Annunciation teachers and leads us to expect great futures (and “Bright Futures”) for them!

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR –

Our School Guidance Counselor is available 2 ½ days a week. The counselor meets monthly with classes for group lessons dealing with various relevant issues like friendship, conflict resolution, and time management. She is also available to meet individually with students and parents concerning circumstances that affect the students’ academic and behavioral success.

LUNCHES –

K-8 Students may bring *bag lunches* or may purchase *lunch online*.

OTHER PROGRAMS –

Our students participate in *Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, Spelling Bees, Speech Contests, Geography Bees, Math Counts, Diocesan Science Fairs, chess tournaments, Lego Robotics*, and various other contests. They serve as *School Safety Patrols, Altar Servers, and our NJHS offers academic support* to students recommended by teachers. Recognition is given to *honor roll students, good school citizens, and student athletes*. *Play Days/Field Days, Science Expos, Junior High Dances, Variety Shows, Christmas Programs, Spring Music Festivals, Art Shows, and Prayer Services* are held. *Field trips* are taken by all grades to places of interest that advance and enhance our curriculum.

Annual screenings are available to our students for vision, speech, hearing, and language development, scoliosis, and BMI (body mass index.)

PARENT INVOLVEMENT –

Our parents are part of our *close school community*. Each family is expected to volunteer 12 hours of service per semester. All our school volunteers, per diocesan policy, are required to complete our SAFE Environment process which includes having a cleared *background check* and documentation of attendance at a *Protecting God's Children* workshop on file, among other things. There are many opportunities to volunteer during school hours, after hours, on weekends, and at home.

Parents enjoy involvement in our *Home & School Association*, which supports the school in many ways. Our active *School Advisory Board*, *School Finance Council*, *Marketing*, and *Facilities Committees* further strengthen our school.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN-

Our preschool program is for children who turn 4 years old by September 1st. Within a warm and loving environment, our young students' interpersonal skills, academic competence, and moral sensibilities are nurtured. The 5-day morning and afternoon programs follow an identical curriculum.

PK 7:45a.m. – 10:45a.m.

Tuition is covered by Florida's VPK program for eligible students.

SCHOOL & CLASS SIZE –

Our average *student body totals 410 in grades PK – 8* with capacity being approximately 500 students. There are double classes for each grade. Class sizes depend on enrollment and are average between 20-25 students. Class size is limited to 18 in PK. Paraprofessionals are available to assist teachers in PK-4th grades with a floating assistant for 5th-8th. Our 26 classroom and enrichment teachers makes our *teacher: student ratio 1:16*.

SPORTS & ATHLETICS –

Our school fields *teams for cross country, basketball, cheerleading, soccer, volleyball, and fast-pitch softball*. Teams are competitive and try-outs are open to boys and girls in 6th-8th grades and cross country is open to K-8th grades. Annunciation is part of the Catholic Elementary School Conference which requires athletes to maintain good grades and behavior. Our athletes travel to play other diocesan Catholic schools our size.

Our basketball teams practice in the Bishop John Snyder High gymnasium. Our soccer and softball teams practice on our home fields. Volleyball practices take place at the Sacred Heart gymnasium. Cheerleading practices are held at school. The *Run/Walk Club* meets weekly and is open to all.

Our Athletic Director teaches our *PE classes* with an emphasis on *physical fitness* and *cardio-vascular exercise*. Skills and attitudes of sportsmanship are developed for team play and a healthy lifestyle.

STANDARDIZED TESTING –

Our standardized testing is conducted and used as *diagnostic tests*. Results are used to plan lessons that will strengthen weak areas and challenge students in areas of strength. Test results are useful in evaluating our teaching methods, texts, and materials.

Students in *grades 3, 5, and 7* take the *IOWA achievement test core battery* (math, language arts, reading) and the *CoGAT test of ability* is taken by 2nd graders and new students.

Grades 4, 6, and 8 students take the *IOWA achievement test complete battery* (math, language arts, reading, social studies, science, computation, maps and reference skills.)

Grade 2 also take the *Word Analysis* and *Listening Skills* portion of the IOWA along with the *core battery and CoGAT*.

Our testing program gives us a broad picture of the strengths and weaknesses of our students and helps us better plan for their success. Annunciation's *strong standardized test scores* compare favorably to other diocesan schools and non-public schools in the state of Florida. Our students' test scores average two or more years beyond grade level.

UNIFORMS –

Parents purchase *school uniforms* directly from the North Florida Uniforms.

Phone: 288-8839. *PE uniforms* are sold in the school office. *PK students* wear our PE uniforms as their daily uniform. Recycled uniforms are available in the school office for about 1/3 the cost of new ones. PE uniforms and recycled uniforms are available any time the school office is open.