

# PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

## Students at the Center of the Learning Experience

### Academic Excellence

*SBA is committed to advancing each individual student's academic potential by addressing capabilities and targeting student needs within a supportive, nurturing classroom environment, aligned to student ability with high expectations of achievement through the use of appropriate evaluative data and effective research based teaching methodologies and materials. We will therefore:*

- Provide instruction that ensures the opportunity for every student to reach his or her academic potential.
- Continuously review and evaluate curriculum, instruction and student performance to ensure success in consideration of our ongoing mission and the academic needs and potential of our students.
- Provide opportunities and establish expectations for faculty professional development and ensure appropriate faculty compensation.
- Commit to ongoing innovation in instructing our students, taking into consideration the best practices and research from the teaching profession.

In support of the above noted strategic goals we understand that students learn most effectively when they are confident in themselves and comfortable in their surroundings. At St. Bernard Academy each student works in an environment that promotes self confidence, self discipline and proficiency. It is a priority to provide instruction that ensures an opportunity for each child to learn and develop basic skills. They are then challenged to apply these skills to acquire further knowledge and understanding.

Student centered learning at St. Bernard Academy allows each child to achieve more and is focused on the student's needs, abilities, interests, and learning styles. Teachers execute an engaging and differentiated curriculum and are the facilitators of learning. Student-centered learning requires students to be active, responsible participants in their own learning. Additionally, enrichment and resource support is available.

At the kindergarten level the program focuses on three core subjects in addition to providing the basics for building social skills. Some elements of Montessori are included as a part of the experience. In levels one and two students are exposed to all subject areas with a compelling emphasis placed on the core subjects of math, reading and language. In levels three through eight students use these previously developed skill sets to demonstrate academic competencies in a wide variety of ways. In these areas students with similar abilities are grouped and equal instruction and support is provided so that all students work to the highest achievement level possible.

St. Bernard Academy also creates opportunities for all parents to build a strong relationship with the school. We encourage all families to stay involved in student learning as well as school activities and events. We believe that this involvement is instrumental in the daily success of each student.

Students and families of all faith traditions are welcomed and are given the support needed to be successful at SBA. Students and their families, faculty and staff all work and play together modeling kindness, understanding and mutual respect for one another.

St. Bernard Academy takes the responsibility of educating the whole child seriously. In addition to the academic programs, students are given the opportunity for spiritual and emotional growth as well as physical achievement through the school's athletic programs.