



**SAINT PHILIP NERI**  
Catholic School

Dear Parents,

Welcome! Saint Philip Neri Catholic School is a community that truly takes pride in our school. Parents, teachers, and staff work together to educate the whole child and promote respectful, responsible, and reverent life-long learners. The education of your child is important and we appreciate that you would consider Saint Philip Neri.

In addition to a core curriculum of religion, mathematics, social studies, science and language arts, we promote 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. Students are provided the opportunity to collaborate and build communication skills, engage in critical thinking and problem solving, and display creativity and innovation. Technology is infused throughout our curriculum. All students participate in our enrichment classes, which include Spanish, art, music, garden science and physical education. Additionally, middle school students choose between elective courses of broadcasting, media, public speaking, speech and debate, study skills, technology, and drama. Our elective courses reflect our belief in honoring the diversity and dignity of every child by offering a wide array of courses to select.

Service learning is an important part of the education of our students. Through service hours, as well as school and class service projects, our students seek to help others. We emphasize the role of leadership and community for all our students. Our Share and Care extended care program is open before and after school and offers seasonal enrichment programs such as art and cooking for students.

We look forward to showing you our wonderful school and we thank you for your interest. Please don't hesitate to contact me personally with any questions you may have about our school.

Sincerely,

Jessica Murray  
Principal

# About Saint Philip Neri Catholic School

## Mission Statement

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Oakland educate children in the Catholic faith and nurture their minds, bodies, and souls, inspiring them to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, achieve their highest academic and creative potential, and actively serve and enrich the community.

## Saint Philip Neri Catholic School Philosophy

The philosophy of Saint Philip Neri Catholic School affirms a mission that is rooted in Gospel values.

The Faculty and Staff of St. Philip Neri recognize parents as the primary educators. We embrace all children and provide an environment that combines rigorous academics with faith, culture and community. We challenge students to be respectful, responsible, reverent life-long learners. We instill in our students the desire to grow in personal knowledge of Christ, recognize His presence in others, and live out His Gospel message.

## Student Learning Expectations

Saint Philip Neri Catholic School encourages each student to be a respectful, responsible and reverent life-long learner. Our approach to whole-child education balances academic achievement with faith formation in an environment demonstrating the joy of learning as the foundation for lifelong success.

A Saint Philip Neri Catholic School student will be continually guided to become:

### A RESPECTFUL INDIVIDUAL who:

- Recognizes all creation as gifts from God
- Honors all people as unique children of God
- Accepts personal strengths and recognizes areas for growth in themselves and others

### A RESPONSIBLE PROBLEM SOLVER who:

- Works independently and cooperatively to create solutions
- Responds to personal and community needs
- Resolves conflict using Christian values

### A REVERENT CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN who:

- Places Christ as the Center of Life
- Makes moral decisions and acts upon them based on Catholic teachings
- Actively participates in school and parish worship

### A LIFE-LONG LEARNER who:

- Demonstrates an ongoing curiosity for learning
- Analyzes and synthesizes information logically and critically
- Sets goals and takes steps to achieve them

*Saint Philip Neri is fully accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)*

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# Curriculum and Instruction

- 15:1 student to teacher ratio in grades K-5
- Service Learning: class and school-wide service projects to connect with and enrich the local and global community
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning: critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration and communication, innovation and creativity
- Core curriculum: religion, mathematics, social studies, science and language arts aligned to standards
- Enrichment for all classes: Spanish, art, music, garden science, library and physical education
- Technology infused throughout the curriculum
- Middle School Electives: broadcasting, media, public speaking, speech and debate, study skills, technology, and drama

# Accreditation

Saint Philip Neri is fully accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q: What is your average class size?

The average class size is 30 students in each class. Grades K-5 have instructional aids, so the student to teacher ratio is 15:1. In grades 6-8, the various elective programs also provide for a student to teacher ratio of 15:1.

## Q: What are Electives?

The Middle School students take core classes in religion, mathematics, science, social studies and language arts as well as enrichment classes in music, art, Spanish and Physical Education. In addition, students choose elective courses that promote 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. The electives include: Media, Broadcasting, Drama, Art, Music, Speech and Debate, Public Speaking, Study Skills and Technology.

## Q: What is the most important criterion for acceptance into kindergarten?

The development and social readiness of the child is the key criterion for acceptance into kindergarten. By law, kindergarteners have to be five by September 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Q: How is the developmental and social readiness of my child evaluated?

Children are administered a readiness “assessment” in the February prior to the start of the year in which they will be entering kindergarten. The kindergarten teacher and principal evaluate each child through observation, preschool recommendation and the assessment to determine their preparedness to begin school.

## Q: What are enrichment classes and what grades take them?

All grades get the following enrichment classes: art, music, Spanish and PE. Technology is infused in the curriculum in all grades.

## Q: What makes Saint Philip Neri Special?

The community – parents, teachers, staff and parish -- all work together to encourage every student to be a respectful, responsible, and reverent life-long learner.

## Q: What are Student Learning Expectations?

Student Learning Expectations, which were developed by the parents, faculty and staff are what we feel represent the essential qualities we want our students to master by the time they graduate.

## Q: How does the school prepare the students for the requirements of the high school curriculum?

The curriculum is aligned to standards and Saint Philip Neri is in contact with their local high schools to ensure vertical integration of the curriculum. Additionally, the teachers promote responsibility and strong study skills.

# Share and Care – After School Program

The Share & Care Center is the School's extended care program, and provides a place where SPN students are able to come after school to play and grow in a well organized, yet flexible learning environment. Parents, as well as the children, will have the security of knowing that the children are being provided for in a program that is devoted to the growth and development of the child.

All activities are designed to allow the child to build and reinforce a positive self image and a positive attitude about sharing and caring for each other in a group setting. The "Share & Care" Extended Care Program embodies the philosophy of Saint Philip Neri Catholic School. Activities include indoor games, both directed and independent, story telling, arts and crafts, outdoor recreation and study time.

The Share & Care Center is opened from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Contracted and drop-in rate are available. Discounts apply for contracted service and for each succeeding child in the same family.

Share & Care director: Monica Fox, telephone: 510-373-5211 | email: [mofox@csdo.org](mailto:mofox@csdo.org)

# Admissions Criteria

At this time we are accepting applications for the Kindergarten class and grades one through eight. The developmental and social readiness of the child is the key criterion for acceptance into Kindergarten. The Kindergarten teacher and the Principal evaluate each child to determine their preparedness to begin school. Applicants to grades one through eight are considered on a space availability basis.

Saint Philip Neri School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and assistance programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

Priority is given to registered, active parishioners and to registered members of the surrounding Catholic parishes. An "active parishioner" is defined as one who participates in parish life by use of the parish envelopes for financial support of Saint Philip Neri Church, as well as, giving of volunteer time to school and parish activities.

## Admissions priorities

- Children of active parishioners with a sibling currently enrolled
- Children of active parishioners
- Catholic children who have a sibling enrolled in school but are not active parishioners
- Catholic children who are not active parishioners
- Non-Catholic children who have a sibling enrolled
- Non-Catholic children