



Frequently Asked Questions

The School, Learning Resources and the Curriculum

Q: What grades does the School of the Blessed Sacrament (SBS) serve?

A: Blessed Sacrament teaches grades Pre K3, Pre K4, and Kindergarten thru 8th grades.

Q: What is the average class size?

A: The school caps Pre K3 enrollment at 20 per class and Pre K4 enrollment at 24 per class. For grades K - 8, the current average class size is 21 students and caps at 25 students.

Q: How many teachers are in each classroom?

A: There are two teachers per class for Pre K3, Pre K4 and Kindergarten. There is one teacher per class for 1st through 8th grades.

Q: What curriculum does the school offer?

A: SBS offers a traditional curriculum which adheres to the educational guidelines of the Archdiocese of New York and New York State. Specifically, the curriculum develops a child's ability to think through a problem while also developing the fundamentals of language arts and math. Teachers follow the Common Core State Standards which establish clear guidelines for what every child should be able to do in math and English language arts. Teachers use creative projects and rigorous academics to ensure our children are not only well-educated, but also good problem-solvers. Students are expected to complete homework and projects, starting at the Pre K4 level, in order to develop the discipline of learning. Students are encouraged to take pride in their work and their knowledge.

Q: What support do you provide to students learning at a higher level?

A: SBS offers Differentiated Learning in every classroom. Advanced students are moved through the curriculum at their accelerated pace and may be introduced to the material of the upper grades. Fractions or narratives, for example, are introduced when the child is ready to learn the information, regardless of age or grade. SBS teachers assess every child individually and continually reassess development so that children fluidly move among learning clusters within the classroom. We stress that every child is seen and that no child "slips through the cracks." Every child is challenged and expected to perform to his or her highest ability.

Q: What remedial support do you provide to students who require it?

A: The level-based teaching as described above allows students to receive focused teaching. Every child is seen at SBS and the teachers make individual assessments to help the child achieve at the highest level. No child "slips through the cracks." Children who require support work closely with the faculty and tutors to gain extra assistance in an effort to bring them to grade level. SBS invites tutors from Regis High School and The Board of Education (through the Title 1 Program) to assist with this process. SBS also has a Learning Center Resource Room to support students who need additional focus.



Frequently Asked Questions

The School, Learning Resources and the Curriculum *(continued)*

Q: How is technology used in SBS, in addition to Smartboards?

A: Every Pre K4 through 8 classroom is equipped with a Smartboard. In addition, students from Kindergarten through 8th grade have access to a computer lab which is equipped with Mac laptops for every student. Technology is used to enhance the curricula by preparing students to be college and career ready. Students are introduced to various software programs that are used to publish student's media rich content. Ipads are also deployed in Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Q: Does the school have a library?

A: The SBS Library is one of the jewels in our crown. Our dedicated librarian is a school treasure and students look forward to their library time, starting in Pre K3. The library has a vast collection of children's fiction, non-fiction and reference materials and is widely utilized by students and families via a web-based circulation and inventory system. The library itself receives ongoing grants to purchase more materials.

Q: Does the school offer after school activities?

A: The school has a diverse after school program charged at a monthly or daily rate that extends child care until 6pm. Students can participate in a particular class for an additional fee with such options as tennis, chess, Tae Kwon Do, Math and Science activities, young runners, yoga, soccer, dance/ballet, theater. In addition to optional classes, children receive supervised homework time and participate in group activities.

Q: What recent grants the school has received?

A: The school applies for and is awarded ongoing grants. We receive annual grants for theater performances, fine art field trips, continuing teacher education, and library grants. The Archdiocese of New York also provides grants and we have several alumni and parents who have established generous grants.

Q: What other support services do you offer students and families to care for the whole child?

A: SBS has relationships with mental health and social professionals to round out our support for the child and family. Our team includes a guidance counselor, social worker, and psychologist who consult with the family and school at the recommendation of the teacher, principal, or family.



Frequently Asked Questions

The School, Learning Resources and the Curriculum *(continued)*

Q: To which schools are your outgoing 8th graders accepted? How does SBS support families through the admission process?

A: Eighth grade students have been accepted at such schools as Convent of the Sacred Heart, Cathedral, Dominican Academy, St. Vincent Ferrer, Fordham Prep, Regis High School, Xavier High School, Loyola High School, La Guardia School of the Arts, St. Agnes, Notre Dame, Bronx Science, Brooklyn Tech, and Stuyvesant High School, among others.

The admissions process begins in 6th grade. Students are prepped for the High School Admissions Test in grades 6, 7 and 8. The teachers and principal meet with each 7th and 8th grade family to discuss the possible set of schools to match each child. SBS hosts and attends High School fairs throughout the city. The admissions officers of many schools are invited to SBS to speak to the 7th and 8th graders.

Religious Education and Value System

Q: What is the value system of The School of the Blessed Sacrament?

A: SBS is a loving community with emphasis on service and gratitude. These values are rooted in our Catholic tradition and guide our mission to live and teach in service to these Christian ideals. In partnership with our parents at home, SBS develops the moral and ethical character of our children according to the loving values of the Christian faith so that we live with respect and gratitude for ourselves, our family and friends, and our community at large.

These values are emphasized through religious education and also through social outreach to put our faith into action. Children participate in service projects such as coat drives, soup kitchen service, penny harvests, and food drives. These projects provide an active opportunity for children to develop empathy for human suffering as well as gratitude for God's blessings in their lives. The Blessed Sacrament Church parish also gives to and receives from our SBS community so children learn they are part of a larger community of faith.

Q: Must you be of the Catholic faith to enroll in The School of the Blessed Sacrament?

A: SBS accepts children of all faiths.

Q: How is religious education incorporated into the curriculum?

A: The children partake in religious classes daily as an integrated part of the curriculum. In the Early Childhood program, the lessons focus on God's love for us and our gratitude for the world, our families and the good things in our lives which God has given to us. As children progress through the grades and their ability to discuss religious concepts mature, lessons evolve accordingly.



Frequently Asked Questions

The Environment and Physical Space

Q: Do you have a lunch program and a cafeteria?

A: Pre K3 and Pre K4 children have snacks and lunch, which their parents provide, in their classrooms. Kindergarten through 8th grades can either bring their own lunch or participate in our nutritious hot lunch program in our cafeteria. In addition, children in grades K - 8 receive a nutritious cold breakfast provided free by the City of New York.

Q: What are your capital improvement plans?

A: SBS has an active Parents Association (PA) with dedicated subcommittees for Capital Improvements and Maintenance. In addition, the school benefits from substantial capital improvements made by the parish. In past years, the hallways and stairwells have been re-painted, lobby lighting has been replaced and both the girls and boys bathrooms in the cafeteria were fully renovated. The schedule of upcoming capital improvements includes renovations to the Rooftop Garden, Cafeteria and Auditorium.

Q: Where do children run around?

A: Students in all grades participate in gym class with our dedicated gym coach. In the lower grades, students have this structured physical activity twice per week. The emphasis is on fun games to promote physical health, calisthenics and even some skill-development such as tennis.

The school's outdoor play space is limited to a rooftop garden. The good news is that we are a few blocks from Riverside Park and Central Park. In the upper grades, teachers take children to either park for recess or outdoor learning or may even take the children for a brisk supervised walk around the block. The Mighty Milers is an after-school running program and many of the after-school programs are physical in nature, such as Tae Kwon Do, Soccer, Movement and Ballet.

Weather permitting, the Pre K3, Pre K4 and K classes and chaperones go to the park for extended play time every Friday. This is an outing that the children and families look forward to every week