

**Mission Statement: Philosophy, Goals and Objectives
Of Mary Star of the Sea High School
Cf. pp. 20-21 Parent Student Handbook**

Mission Statement

In the great tradition of Catholic education, Mary Star of the Sea High School challenges students to reach their full human potential through a living faith in God. In the context of a small community environment based on mutual respect, the school prepares students for this world and the next by nourishing the soul, cultivating personal integrity, challenging the mind and fostering social responsibility.

**Philosophy Statement
Principles**

A. The Fundamental Purpose of a Catholic Education

Two thousand years ago a young man approached Jesus and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Participating in the mission of Christ the Teacher, Mary Star of the Sea High School is committed to helping the young men and women of today answer this fundamental question. The school prepares its students for what they are called to be and do in this world, in order to attain the wonderful end for which they were created. The Teacher-Student Relationship in a Small School Environment

B. The Teacher-Student Relationship in a Small School Environment

Jesus Christ often chose to teach His disciples in the context of a small intimate circle of instruction and mutual exchange. Following the example of its Master Teacher, Mary Star of the Sea High School emphasizes the fundamental importance of the teacher-student relationship in education, limiting enrollment and class size to enhance the quality of daily, personal interaction between teachers and students. The school believes that its small size is a significant advantage to students in achieving their educational goals.

B. Teachers as Role Models and Guides

“Prime responsibility for creating the unique Christian school climate rests with the teachers, as individuals and as a community.” Mary Star of the Sea High School teachers, both lay and religious treat their students with the dignity and respect due any child of God. Teachers challenge students to reach their full potential, generously sharing their time and presence to offer the best hope of student success. Mary Star of the Sea High School teachers recognizes they have been called by God to teach. They are active members of their own parish communities and strive to live their vocation in a manner pleasing to the Lord. Working together as one, they join their talents, energy and vision to build the kingdom of God in the hearts of the entrusted to their care.

C. The Pivotal Role of Parents in Partnership with the School

“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children, especially in the areas of faith and morals. Parents exercise this role in a special way through active involvement in their own parish community. In seeking assistance with their role, it is crucial that parents choose a school, which shares their vision of education. Mary Star of the Sea High School believes cooperation and unity of purpose between home and school, are essential to student growth and development. Parents and teachers are called to work in harmony, forming a visible and united partnership, which keeps students properly focused, and on track. Mary Star of the Sea High School parents share their time and talent with the school community to enhance the overall quality of their children’s education.

D. A Parish High School Sharing the Universal Church’s Mission of Education

Mary Star of the Sea High School is a ministry sponsored by Mary Star of the Sea Parish in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. As such, it participates in the universal Church’s ongoing mission of education. “The fulfillment of that mission and its authentic interpretation rests primarily on the successor of Peter and in a more direct way, upon the bishop.” While remaining in communion with the universal Church, the school reflects the local community, serving a wide variety of academic, economic and cultural backgrounds. The school expresses fidelity to its identity as a parish ministry through the close collaboration of the administration, faculty and staff with the pastor, priests and staff of the parish.

E. The Presence of the Norbertine Fathers

Under the direction of the Pastor of Mary Star of the Sea Parish, the school is administered by the Norbertine Fathers. Enriching the school community with the witness of their consecrated life and their nine century tradition of education, the Norbertines provide a sense of continuity, stability, evangelization and a culture of learning which gives greater definition to the school’s Catholic identity.

F. Educating the Whole Student

A “school must begin from the principle that its educational program is intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person.” Keeping this fundamental tenet of Catholic education in mind, Mary Star of the Sea High School aims to educate the whole student. The school focuses its attention on four principal goals for each student: nourishing the soul (Catholicism), cultivating personal integrity (Character), challenging the mind (Curriculum) and fostering social responsibility (Community). None of these goals can be viewed in isolation from the others; without any one of them, the end result of a truly Catholic education cannot be attained.