

St. John the Baptist Catholic School

2024-25 Rule 14 Nonpublic Schools Annual Report

School Administrator Mrs. Teresa Lewandowski

**School Philosophy**

**At St. John the Baptist Catholic School, our mission is to educate the whole child.**

Rooted in our Catholic values and committed to academic excellence, St. John the Baptist Catholic School is dedicated to forming the whole child — mind, heart, soul and spirit.

Our educational philosophy is designed to prepare students to succeed in any rigorous high school academic program by providing a firm foundation in knowledge and skills, encouraging a wide variety of intellectual exposure, providing practice and knowledge of good study habits and inspiring creativity and critical analysis in each child.

St. John the Baptist Catholic School offers a rich academic tradition grounded in a Christ-centered, loving environment. With a focus on Catholic sacraments and tradition, our students live out their faith in action through service to others and daily Mass attendance at our parish, the Church of the Holy Spirit.

**Our School Year Theme and What Makes StJB Special**

Each year, St. John the Baptist School operates under a school-year theme. This year’s theme is “Lighting the Way to Christ, Celebrating 140 years of Catholic Education in our Community.” Our school was established in 1884 by faithful Catholics seeking Catholic education for their children. We are the only Catholic elementary school in Cass County. Many students and staff are third or fourth generation members of the St. John the Baptist community.

We offer a high quality, Christ-centered education, at an affordable price. We focus on community service, student achievement, and the sacraments. StJB students have been awarded national recognition in National History Day, Woodmen Speech Contest, and poetry and art contests. In addition, our students participate in science fair, athletics, band, Art Club, Junior Legion of Mary, Student Council, Fit Club, and Jubilate Choir.

St. John the Baptist School’s history is filled with rich traditions. Here are a few examples:

-In Kindergarten, the annual pot of stone soup has been prepared with the same stone for over 40 years!

- Students in k-2nd grades attend the Omaha Symphony each year.

- 5th-8th graders compete in a speech contest each spring. The topics are always related to American History.

- 7th grade students look forward to the fishing trip each spring.

- Junior high students visit the Holy Family Shrine and See’s Candy, where they learn about Nebraska ingenuity and entrepreneurship.

- Second graders attend the Traditional Latin Mass at St. Cecilia’s in Omaha.

- Catholic School’s Week celebrations; School-wide All Saints Day festivities; Stations of the Cross; food, baby item, animal shelter drives; breakfast cart and Christmas store to support an orphanage in India; Penny Wars to support the Franciscan Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother; Oktoberfest; 8th grade floats are annual winners at the Plattsmouth Harvest Festival; outdoor classroom activities in our garden classroom; and many more!

Our staff, which has combined experience of over 200 years, infuses each of these things with our faith, bringing our school-year theme of *Lighting the Way to Christ* into reality for our students.

**Demographics**

St. John the Baptist School is located in a rural, farm-based community in eastern Nebraska. Plattsmouth is also heavily influenced by military families that serve at Offutt Air Force Base, the home of U.S. Stratcom and the Air Force Weather Agency. The student body is comprised of mostly white, non-Hispanic students, with a few students of mixed or Hispanic descent. Students come from five public school districts: Bellevue Public Schools, Conestoga Public Schools, Omaha Public Schools, Papillion-La Vista Public Schools, and, with the highest percentage, Plattsmouth Community Schools. There are 63 female and 68 male students in grades pre-K through 8th grade.

St. John the Baptist employs 9 certified staff members, 7 non-certified para-educators or provisional educators, and various support staff. The school is administered by a Head Teacher who is currently pursuing administrative endorsement.

**Student Performance**

Students in grades 3-8 take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills annually in March. Below are results for the 2024 test date. Complete composite scores are at, above, or significantly above grade level for all grades.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grade | Data Type | Reading | ELA Total | Math Total | Social Studies | Science | Complete Composite |
| 3 | Percentile | 40 | 49 | 52 | 57 | 47 | 49 |
| 3 | Gr Equiv | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| 4 | Percentile | 49 | 60 | 59 | 63 | 65 | 59 |
| 4 | Gr Equiv | 4.7 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.3 |
| 5 | Percentile | 30 | 45 | 45 | 58 | 60 | 49 |
| 5 | Gr Equiv | 4.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 6.3 | 6.6 | 5.8 |
| 6 | Percentile | 55 | 65 | 53 | 72 | 65 | 61 |
| 6 | Gr Equiv | 7.2 | 7.9 | 7.0 | 9.0 | 8.2 | 7.7 |
| 7 | Percentile | 68 | 78 | 69 | 80 | 85 | 76 |
| 7 | Gr Equiv | 9.6 | 10.6 | 9.8 | 12.2 | 13+ | 11 |
| 8 | Percentile | 57 | 59 | 69 | 74 | 69 | 66 |
| 8 | Gr Equiv | 9.6 | 9.7 | 11.2 | 13+ | 11.8 | 11 |

All students in grades K-8 use IXL Diagnostics for ongoing criterion referenced assessment. Students are to update their diagnostic weekly, thus keeping the teacher informed of student progress in achieving standards in real time.

**In Conclusion**

St. John the Baptist School, with its long history, rich traditions, and high-quality educational opportunities, has been serving the community for 140 years. Through diligence and faith, may it continue to do so for the next 140 years to come!