



ST. THERESE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Middle School



OUR MISSION

Maximizing
each child's
God-given
potential

Customized Learning

Spiritual Formation

Character Development



Welcome

Here at St. Therese, we offer a well-rounded educational journey that nurtures both academic and personal development. With a deep commitment to excellence, our staff fosters a vibrant, inclusive community where students are inspired to achieve their full potential. Our dedicated faculty build close relationships with students, ensuring individualized support and attention. Through a challenging yet supportive environment, we encourage students to explore their academic interests, strengthen their character, and grow in faith, providing a foundation for lifelong success.



“ I am so grateful that you are checking out our middle school program! I am so proud of the work that our fantastic teachers do in partnering with our parents to support our students during these extremely important years. Now, more than ever, our adolescents need an environment like St. Therese where they truly experience a **faith-based community working together to prepare them to excel in high school and beyond** and be good people! ”

- Adam Groebner, Principal

YOU belong HERE

19

AVERAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS SIZE

7

FULL-TIME MIDDLE SCHOOL FACULTY

10:1

STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

70%

STUDENTS ARE CATHOLIC

63%

GROWTH IN THE LAST 5 YEARS

“

I love how much our **teachers care about us.** We get lots of one-on-one time with them. There is **always someone to help** you out.

-current 7th grader”



K-8 MODEL:

Research shows that the PreK-8 model is good for students, citing higher academic achievement, more involvement in extra-curricular activities, more opportunities to develop leadership skills, fewer reports of bullying, and a strong connection to the community.

We are, above all, a Catholic school. Faith is woven into every aspect of life at St. Therese. Your child will grow in a community that learns, serves, plays, and prays together. There are many ways our students live out their faith at St. Therese School.

Daily Prayer

We start each day in prayer, recognizing our blessings, praying for others and simply showing gratitude for our many gifts.

Weekly Mass

All students and faculty attend Mass each Wednesday as a school community, celebrating Christ's love. Students are involved in the Mass at all ages-from preschool through 8th grade. Whether it's bringing up gifts, reading the scriptures, or reading a petition - all are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Adoration

Students spend time in quiet reflection and prayer with Blessed Sacrament. This time is spent as a class within the chapel and allows time for students to quiet themselves and set aside time each week to pray, growing closer to God. We find that students enjoy this time in their school week to reflect on their blessings and just be still for a bit.

Buddies

An older student (i.e., buddy) is assigned to a younger "buddy" and they maintain this relationship throughout the school year. For our students, it provides an opportunity to be a leader and mentor. Meanwhile, the younger students have a friendly face and an older student to look up to!

Service

Students have frequent opportunities to look outside and beyond themselves through service. Favorite examples include service at Sharing and Caring Hands, Feed My Starving Children Meal pack, and other school-wide service activities.



STRONG *academics*

“

As new members, we've been thrilled with our child's **seamless transition** into middle school. Our daughter feels **welcomed, supported, and challenged** daily. Small gestures, from August meet-and-greets to a yard sign before school, have made a huge impact on our family. **We are proud** to be part of the STS community.

-new 6th grade parent

”

Our middle school offers a well-rounded academic program in a supportive structured environment. STS prioritizes a balanced approach to schooling that values real-world social interaction, consistent physical activity, and minimal digital interruptions for an overall healthier and more engaging school environment.

no cell phones



daily recess



twice-weekly gym



80%

GRADUATES TAKE AP OR HONORS COURSES IN HIGH SCHOOL

TOP

1%

NATIONAL GRADUATE RANK IN MATH

88%

2023 GRADUATES ON A HONOR ROLL OR PRINCIPAL'S LIST IN HIGH SCHOOL

TOP

2%

NATIONAL GRADUATE RANK IN READING

7

AVERAGE MATH CLASS SIZE

Our curricula are structured to support all types of academic learners and levels.

Academic Enrichment

Designed to provide challenging, thought provoking, and diverse learning opportunities for our students. The program works on many different levels including pull out groups, classroom differentiation challenge packets, and school wide activities available to all. The goal of academic enrichment is to enhance and seek deeper understanding of skills and content learning during classroom lessons and initiate opportunities to explore subjects and areas beyond their primary curriculum.

Academic Support

Our **Student Support Team** is made up of teachers who meet monthly to discuss ways to meet students needs including plans, strategies and accommodations. These meetings may lead to the creation of an **ILP (Individual Learning Plan)** for a specific student.

Social-Emotional Support

Our licensed school counselor meets with individual students and small groups and teaches classroom lessons. They are also a resource for parents to provide information on topics like stress management, anxiety and mindfulness.



At St. Therese our academic enrichment honors each student's unique gifts, creating a learning environment where **individual strengths are nurtured, curiosity is encouraged, and deeper understanding flourishes**. By valuing diverse talents, we empower students not just to absorb knowledge, but to expand it in ways that are meaningful to them and impactful for the world.

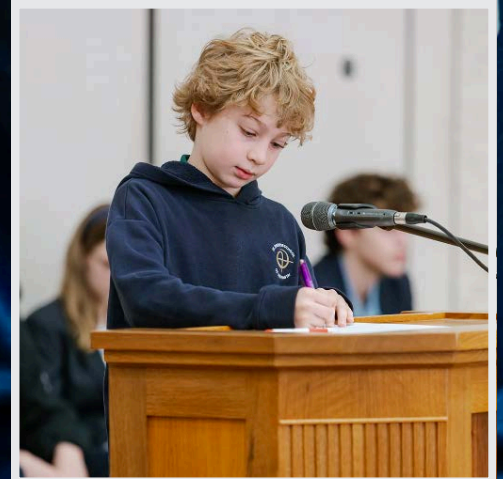
- Heather Faber, Academic Enrichment Coordinator



DEVELOPING *the* WHOLE CHILD

St. Therese Catholic School offers a wide range of enriching after-school activities to suit all student interests, from athletics and the arts to academics. Our after-school enrichment courses start right after the school day, designed for various age groups and interests.

Our competitive athletic programs for grades 4–8 include league play. In the fall, girls can join volleyball, and both boys and girls can play soccer. Basketball takes center stage in winter, with camps available year-round. Additionally, students in grades 3–8 can participate in the Ski & Snowboard Club at Hyland Hills during January and February.



100% of middle school students are currently participating in at least one extra curricular activity!

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Spring Musical (Grades 6–8)

Math League (Grades 6–8)

Band (Grades 4–8)

After School Enrichment Courses (K–8)

Ski Club (Grades 3–8)

Quiz Bowl (Grades 6–8)

Spelling Bee (Grades 4–8)

Soccer (Grades 4–8)

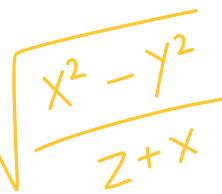
Basketball (Grades 4–8)

Girls Volleyball (Grades 4–8)

Liturgical Choir (Grades 3–8)

Middle School Socials

Middle School Retreats



MATH

$$M = \left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$$



The St. Therese math program lays a foundation for students to think, explore, and problem-solve logically, critically, and abstractly. Each grade level builds on concepts from the previous year, while expanding and deepening math skills.

St. Therese School offers three “Math Paths” per grade level. Beyond the options listed below, we have also offered Algebra 2 to students in 8th grade.

8th Grade Math Levels:

- Linear Algebra; leading to Quadratic Algebra in 9th grade
- Algebra 1; leading to Geometry in 9th grade
- Geometry; leading to Algebra 2 in 9th grade

Students take notes, must show their work, and do not use calculators until the middle of pre-algebra. There is generally daily homework, but also work time in class and a quiz nearly every week. Math League is also very popular and offered as an academic extracurricular activity.

RELIGION & SERVICE

In Middle School Religion, students will learn the salvation history of our faith ancestors in the Old Testament, The Gospels and life and teachings of Christ, and the history of the Church from its beginning at Pentecost to present day.

The curriculum also includes: study/review of the Liturgical Seasons, Ten Commandments, Seven Sacraments, Works of Mercy, Cardinal Virtues and Capital Sins, Virtue/Saint of the Month, personal safety, Christian vocations, Catholic Social Teaching, Pro-Life, Daily Saints, and prayers.

Students have opportunities to lead/experience different types of prayers, Eucharistic Adoration, weekly Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Rosary, Stations of the Cross, bible reading, and Serving at Sharing and Caring Hands, FMSC Meal pack, and other school-wide service activities.



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

In middle school at STS, learning history and geography means much more than memorizing names, dates, and places from a textbook. Students learn to think critically about historic events and people by analyzing primary sources and looking for connections to events of the past and our world today.

WASHINGTON DC TRIP:

The middle school H&G experience culminates in May of 8th grade with a 4-day excursion to Washington, D.C. The students will visit all the famous monuments and memorials, see important historic artifacts at the Smithsonian museums, and see the branches of our federal government in action as they make stops at the Capitol, White House, and Supreme Court buildings. When scheduling allows, they get to meet with some of their Congressional representatives as well. It is such a fun trip to wrap up their STS experience!

AREA OF FOCUS:

- 6th Grade: Ancient civilizations
- 7th & 8th Grade: US History

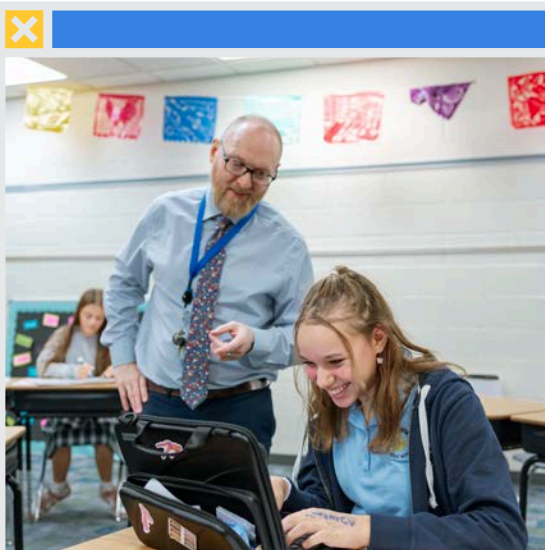


WOVEN THROUGHOUT: Geography, civics, and current events are woven into the curriculum in all three grades as it relates to the historical topics studied.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT is taught in either 7th or 8th grade. Students learn the basics of financial skills they will need in adulthood; such as paying taxes, the pros and cons of using credit cards, and even choosing a career that matches their personality and interests!



TECHNOLOGY



At St. Therese Middle School, technology is integrated across multiple disciplines, with a focus on our 1:1 Chromebook program. Our Middle School leverages G-Suite for Education for its highly effective collaborative and organizational tools. St. Therese also utilizes an advanced filtering and monitoring software to keep our students safe online, both on and off campus. Students leverage their Chromebook for a variety of learning opportunities; such as mixing and recording their own songs, to 3D modeling and printing, and even designing and coding their own smartphone apps through our STEM offerings.

LANGUAGE ARTS



St. Therese Middle School provides students with a rigorous Language Arts program. Our goal is to ensure students master a variety of skills that propel them into advanced Language Arts classes in high school.



READING: Students discover a wide variety of literary texts, from classics to more modern writings. These texts include novels, poetry, and short stories

WRITING: Students build skills in self-expression through informal reflection journals and fine-tune their organization and logical-thinking skills in formal essay writing. Writing pieces include literary analysis, persuasive writing, cause-and-effect essays, descriptive narratives, and many more types of essay and creative writings.

GRAMMAR: Grammar and Mechanics are taught and reinforced through daily lessons and IXL practice. We build on our vocabulary using Glencoe Reader's Choice workbooks as a guide.

DISCUSSION: Students learn the art of conversation, build creativity, and practice academic discussion.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Students present their ideas orally through public speaking, speech writing, and debate. They gain confidence by engaging an audience and organizing their ideas in a concise and memorable way.



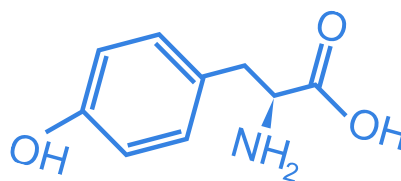
MUSIC

Middle school music uses a Music curriculum that focuses on ear training, rhythm reading, listening skills, application, and music history units. Some projects include individual and small group settings. In class, there are daily games and activities that students participate in to reinforce the concepts. For example, when learning rhythm reading students may bucket drum, or do ear training through the game Forbidden Melody, creating listening maps to different musical compositions. Students also learn to use a variety of musical resources such as Chrome Music Lab, Sound Trap, and more.



Middle School students have the opportunity to participate in Liturgical choir, middle school band, and/or the spring musical.

SCIENCE



Middle school science is all about experiencing the world God has created for us! Each year, we focus on a different aspect of science, these include:

- 6th Grade: **Earth science**, students study how the earth was formed, and continues to change and move. This includes plate tectonics, oceans, biosphere, and outer space.
- 7th Grade: **Life science** studies everything living including plants, animals, and ecosystems with focus on cells, animal interactions, and human body systems.
- 8th Grade: **Physical science** examines matter and how we interact with it which will include studying the periodic table, electromagnetic spectrum, and introduction to chemistry.

CAMP WIDJIWAGAN TRIP:

In September the 7th graders enjoy a 3-day excursion in Ely, MN. This is a wilderness-based programs where campers develop outdoor skills through canoeing, backpacking, and environmental education in the Boundary Waters.

VISUAL ARTS

Students find joy in creative expression! Our middle school visual art classes immerse our students in a range of experiences to gain confidence in visual problem-solving. Students learn to apply line, color, value, shape, texture, space, and how to use materials. We highlight art history as well as design concepts to help students appreciate a variety of cultural contexts for art production.

Art projects are designed around themes, such as a particular art movement or cultural approach to art making, or a specific artist's techniques and style. For example, this year, students studied the art of Yayoi Kusama and created 3 dimensional papier-mache pumpkins inspired by her work.

We are passionate about inspiring a strong appreciation of the visual world and through practice, to reflect its beauty through their own creative production. In the Studio Art elective class, students gain a deeper sense of the creative process and choose projects based on their personal interests.



SPANISH

Hola

At St. Therese Middle School you can expect your student to build a strong foundation of the Spanish language and an awareness of the culture in Spanish speaking countries.

Teaching and learning is designed to actively engage all students by using a wide variety of methods to cover many different learning styles. There is also a focus on digging deeper and learning about the many different Spanish speaking cultures around the world. The ability to learn another language and understand other cultures has so many benefits. At St. Therese we try to spark this interest in students so they look forward to continuing on their language learning path.

FOCUS:

Students will be challenged to develop all four areas of language learning which include speaking, reading, writing and listening.

GRADE LEVEL & GOAL:

- The content taught is often seen in high school Spanish I courses.
- If students continue to study Spanish after STS, the goal is that students test directly into Spanish II.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The main goal of PE class is to empower learning through play and competition, hold a positive energy standard in that space, and find the joy in being active as a part of one's lifestyle. Students will have the opportunity to explore a wide variety of activities that challenge them physically and socially. In PE an environment exists in which all students can thrive, no matter their interest and/or background in sport and athletics.

We are constantly introducing new activities so all students are engaged and excited about what's in store for the day.

Students take on individual skill building activities as well as partner and teamwork to incorporate the social aspect of achieving goals and working as one. Some units we cover are sport specific, while others include a variety of activities that incorporate the same skills



ALL *are* WELCOME

Tuition

All students are welcome at St. Therese Catholic School regardless of financial situation. We are happy to work with families to seek scholarship options, or other creative solutions to ensure your child may attend.

Finances should never hold a family back from choosing STS for their family.

Tuition Assistance

We offer several tuition assistance programs these include, but are not limited to the following:

- Father Shea Scholarship Fund: *Apply for tuition assistance annually*
- Multi-child discount starting with second student

2024-2025 Tuition

Registration Fee: \$150

1st Student: \$5,980

2nd Student and beyond: \$5,382 (10% off)

WHAT'S NEXT?!

- 1 Complete the 2025-26 online registration form. Use this QR code to quickly access the online form.
- 2 Register by December 20th for priority registration and upcoming 6th graders and new students receive free blazer!
- 3 Expect to receive an email from TADs (the online registration system) alerting you to register in their online system.
- 4 Celebrate - You're officially registered for middle school at St. Therese Catholic School!

Priority Registration Due Date:

Dec. 20th

for free blazer!



FAQs

middle school frequently asked question

Do you have to be Catholic or a member of St. Therese parish to attend?

No. STS is a place where your child will encounter Christ everyday. Catholic, or non-Catholic, all are welcome.

How is academic progress monitored?

Students are given the NWEA-MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) each fall and spring. MAP scores help determine instructional levels and measure academic growth from year to year in the areas of math and reading.

STAR assessments are given in reading and math every 6 weeks to monitor student growth and progress.

Does STS offer busing?

Yes. St. Therese provides busing within the Minnetonka School district. Contact the Minnetonka Bus Company for specific routes.

Could you provide some details on the types of meals served at school?

Our Food & Nutrition Coordinator prepares nutritious, balanced meals daily on-site. A hot lunch is offered each day, along with salad bar. St. Therese participates in the National School Lunch & Breakfast program allowing for free breakfast and lunch to all students K-8.

What are the hours of the school day?

The first bell rings at 7:30am, and the day begins promptly at 7:35am with morning prayer. Our school day concludes at 2:10pm.

Is financial aid available?

Yes, We offer many financial aid options, and will work with your family to meet your needs. We are committed to offering each student an opportunity to attend STS.

Is there a discount for school uniforms?

STS has a new and gently used uniform store. All items are already branded with the school logo.

Do you offer language immersion programs?

Students receive Spanish instruction twice per week; 45 minutes per session in grades 6-8.