

STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AT THE BEACH

Catholic Identity

- Each school day opens with our Catholic faith community united in prayer through a Gospel reading and reflection on it's meaning, led by our Principal, Dr. Cathryn Whisman and 8th grade students.
- All students are involved in living out the Gospel message of loving their neighbor by providing service to those in need. Our middle school students perform required community service hours.
- Older and younger students are paired together as "prayer partners" and meet monthly to share prayers and activities.

Accreditation

- Star of the Sea has a dual accreditation from the Virginia Catholic Education Association (VCEA) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). In 2008 Star of the Sea was awarded "**exemplary**" status, the highest rating a school can receive, in all three Design for Growth (DFG) review areas: Evidence of Meeting Standards, Demonstration of Continuous Improvement and Providing Quality Assurance.
- The 2008 Visiting Team from SACS CASI had the following to say during the reaccreditation process and after spending time at Star of the Sea School, "Star of the Sea School is a Christ-centered learning environment with a strong identity of quality faith formation, academic excellence and character development. The principal, faculty and staff create an atmosphere which nurtures the spiritual growth of the students. A plethora of Catholic traditions and community outreach projects give evidence to the school's commitment in preparing students to be respectful and responsible leaders for the 21st century. The Spirit of Star of the Sea school is joyful and welcoming."

Kudos to our Teachers and Students

- Ms. Brita Hampton, Star of the Sea Middle School Science teacher, was one of five educators selected in the U.S. as Project Learning Tree's 2008 Outstanding Educator of the Year for her commitment to environmental education and her exceptional teaching skills.
- In Star of the Sea's first year competing in the Catholic School Forensics Competition, one of our 7th graders was awarded **1st** place in the Declamation Division.
- One of our 7th graders was awarded **1st** place and one of our 8th graders was awarded **3rd** place in the 2008-2009 Fleet Reserve Association's annual American Essay Contest with the theme, "What the United States Flag Stand For."
- In 2008, a recent Star of the Sea graduate, who now attends Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School, was awarded **1st** place in the 15th annual Virginia Outdoor Writers Association (VOWA) Annual Youth Writing contest.

The Move to High School

Our graduates are well-prepared for high school as evidenced by the following:

From 2005-2008...

- **100 %** of those who applied from Star of the Sea were accepted to the Virginia Beach High School Academy Programs: Health Sciences Academy at Bayside H.S., Legal Studies Academy at First Colonial H.S., Technology Academy at Landstown H.S. and the Global Studies and World Languages Academy at Tallwood H.S.
- **67%** of those who applied from Star of the Sea were accepted to the Advanced Academic International Baccalaureate Program at Princess Anne High School.
- **61%** of those who applied from Star of the Sea were accepted to the Advanced Academic Math & Science Academy at Ocean Lakes High School, **compared to a 25%** acceptance rate city-wide.
- **Over 44%** of Star of the Sea 8th grade students qualified for the Johns Hopkins University Talented Youth Program scoring in the **95th percentile** or above in the reasoning section of the Terra Nova Test. Those 8th grade students were then eligible to take the high school SAT test, with 4 of them receiving an award with “Distinction” for scoring above the national SAT average for college-bound high school seniors.
- **100%** of our 8th graders in 2008 who took the Richmond Diocesan Algebra test passed it and earned Algebra I high school credit.
- **76%** of all of our 8th graders in 2008 passed the Richmond Diocesan Spanish I exam earning high school credit.
- Algebra I is offered in 8th grade to eligible students for high school credit and Spanish I is taught to all 7th grade (Part 1) and 8th grade (Part 2) students for high school credit.

Test Scores

- In 2007 our average 7th grade Terra Nova standardized combined test scores including reading, language arts and math was in the **92nd percentile**, meaning on AVERAGE the entire 7th grade class scored better than 92% of the 7th graders in the U.S. who took the test in reading, language arts and math.
- In 2007 our average 1st grade Terra Nova test scores was in the **95th percentile**, meaning on AVERAGE our entire 1st grade class scored better than 95% of the 1st graders in the U.S. who took the test in reading, language arts and math.

The Learning Environment

- SMART Board technology was newly introduced at Star of the Sea in 2009 and is available to every student at the school in their daily learning area.
- Class sizes are small at Star of the Sea, which enhances the learning experience, with an average of 17 students per class in K-7 during the 2008/2009 school year.