

Philosophy For Our Lady Star of the Sea

Dedication to the Ministry of the Word by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus is the essence of our work at Our Lady Star of the Sea. It is our belief that:

Jesus is the head of this school,
the unseen Teacher in every classroom,
the silent Listener to every lesson.

As a community of God's people we celebrate our relationship through worship and service. The school day starts and ends with prayers. We integrate numerous liturgical celebrations into our school life. The students are encouraged to express their Catholic traditions and beliefs in creative ways. We welcome parents and all members of the parish community to celebrate with us. The student population joyfully and generously participates in many charitable service activities. We believe that the Catholic education our students receive here at Our Lady Star of the Sea gives priority to their individual needs and helps them to develop to their full potential.

Our Lady Star of the Sea School stresses the development of moral integrity as well as the human needs and values of each child. We recognize that each student is endowed with great worth and dignity. Our purpose is to develop each child's potential, encourage creativity and stimulate initiative. Our school fosters within the child the spirit of Christian joy and helps to guide the child away from the destructiveness of ignorance, prejudice and self-centeredness. In doing this we help spread the Word of God, paving the way for peace and unity among all people.

The curriculum is developed and reviewed for all subject areas in a logical sequence following the Archdiocese of New York and the New York State Curriculum. Thinking skills are enhanced at a pace appropriate to grade level. It is understood that Jesus Christ is the silent observer in each class; therefore, Christian values are the underlying theme evident in every lesson.

Our Lady Star of the Sea School looks for teachers who reflect Christian values, meet state criteria for teaching certification, exemplify deep-rooted compassion for children, and who view teaching as a vocation. It is the teacher's responsibility to maintain a classroom where various teaching methods are encouraged and implemented. Materials are evaluated and selected with input from the faculty and approval by the administration. The school is evaluated by the Middle States Commission of Elementary Schools. The Archdiocese of New York periodically reviews the administration, and faculty members are evaluated by the principal in both formal and informal settings. Individual students are also evaluated on their own capabilities with emphasis placed on their efforts as well as their achievements.

The nature of the relationships within our school environment is a powerful force in shaping the experiences of the students. Our primary focus is to establish positive, supportive, and nurturing relationships between the teachers and the students. Students are also taught to respect and accept one another. Open communication between the teachers and the parents is a vital component in the process of assisting each child in reaching his/her full potential. Equally important, the family of teachers at our school shares a mutual respect for one another, encourages professional growth within each other, and continually provides the support that energizes and enhances each teacher's classroom skills.