



**SAINTS PETER & PAUL
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Traditional Catholic Education and Faith Since 1849.

FRIENDS OF CORE KNOWLEDGE SCHOOL

January 2010

Dear Parents,

Thank you for considering Sts. Peter and Paul School. We know that you want the best for your child. At Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School, our goal is to partner with you to educate your child in a Christian culture that fosters excellence in spiritual, intellectual, human, and social development.

In addition to the basic curriculum, your child's intellectual formation will be supplemented by "Core Knowledge." Core Knowledge is a special curriculum based on some of the ideas presented by E.D. Hirsch, Jr. in his well known books, *Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know* and *Schools We Need and Why We Don't Have Them*.

In each grade, students will be exposed to a broad range of historical, scientific, and cultural topics that will build on one another to prepare them for later educational success. The wide array of subject matter will not only develop cultural literacy but also will build the strong vocabulary necessary for true reading comprehension.

Our enrollment packet contains the necessary forms to begin the application process. Please follow the checklist to ensure that you will have submitted all the appropriate forms, documents, and fees. Financial aid application forms are available through the school office. The Diocese of San Antonio is an additional source for tuition assistance.

Sts. Peter and Paul is a place where strong spiritual principles and high academic standards help today's youth grow into tomorrow's leaders. We are delighted that you are seeking an environment such as Sts. Peter and Paul for your child.

God bless,

John Pelicano
Principal

Sts. Peter and Paul School admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities. We do not discriminate in the administration of educational policies, admission policies, financial aid policies, and athletic or other programs.



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About Our School

HISTORY

Fr. Menzel founded the church at its current location in 1849. The Sisters of Divine Providence opened the school in 1871. It has been in continuous operation since then. A few major milestones of our school are:

- 1901 A new brick school was built.
- 1958 the present Parish school is dedicated.
- 1984 The Sisters of Divine Providence withdrew.
- 2009 The Good Shepherd Center and the St. Joseph's Center were built.

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT

Sts. Peter & Paul School serves students from pre-Kindergarten (age 3) through eighth grade. As a parochial school, the school is part of the faith community of Sts. Peter and Paul Church. The school is well recognized in the community for providing students with spiritual development and academic excellence. Sts. Peter & Paul is open to students of any race, color, religious denomination or ethnic origin.

SCHOOL HOURS

- Pre-Kindergarten – 7:50 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Kindergarten through 2nd Grade – 7:50 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
- 3rd through 5th Grade – 7:50 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.
- Middle School – 7:50 a.m. to 3:35 p.m.

School doors are opened at 7:30 a.m. Students remaining on campus fifteen minutes after dismissal will automatically be placed under the supervision of our After School Care program until the parent/guardian/responsible adult arrives (see ASC for fees).

TEACHER-STUDENT RATIO

Sts. Peter & Paul School maintains a favorable teacher to student ratio. The administration strives to keep the class sizes to no more than 22 students per teacher for K-8th and 16 - 18 students per teacher for the Pre-kindergarten classes. Teacher aides provide assistance in the pre-kindergarten – 1st grade classes.

DISCIPLINE

Sts. Peter and Paul School creates a culture of Christian charity and respect for all students and faculty. Teachers provide many opportunities for student success which fosters the development of a positive self-image. Positive reinforcement is used to help students grow in self-discipline and personal responsibility.

UNIFORMS

Everyday uniforms are required for all students, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Uniform guidelines are distributed with the enrollment packet. All students are expected to adhere to the uniform policy.

ACCREDITATION

Sts. Peter & Paul School is accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department (TCCED), which is recognized by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for the purpose of accrediting Catholic schools in the state of Texas. The accreditation process assures truth and quality in student learning and performance. TEA accreditation guarantees that students' transcripts and grade level standings are accepted by public schools. Our curriculum meets and exceeds the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) requirements. Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School is a member of National Catholic Educators Association (NCEA). Sts. Peter and Paul students consistently perform well on nationally normed standardized tests. Many fourth and fifth grades students qualify for the Duke University Motivation for Academic Performance program.

COURSEWORK

Students are challenged to develop spiritually as well as intellectually, physically, and humanly in order to pursue knowledge, and critically study and analyze the world in which they live. Fundamental skills are emphasized in all grades and technology is applied to the curriculum to enhance learning. At our school, your child will be offered a very special curriculum called **Core Knowledge**. It is based on some of the ideas presented in E.D. Hirsch, Jr. in his well known books, *Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know* and *The Schools We Need and Why We Don't Have Them*, and further developed by the foundation he established in 1986.

Core subjects include religion, language arts, math, science, and social studies. Elementary students also participate in enrichment classes that include art, Spanish, physical education, library, music and technology. Middle school students are offered electives in addition to foreign language, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, and Physics I. To further enhance the curriculum, students occasionally will go on field trips, or outside programs will visit the school. Report cards go out every nine weeks and progress reports go out every four weeks. A parent/teacher conference is held during the first nine weeks and again during the last nine weeks. Any additional conferences can be scheduled upon the request of the parent or teacher.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students have the opportunity to further their intellectual, physical and social development by participating in school sponsored activities and AIAL sport league. Sts. Peter and Paul students play a variety of sports, including volleyball, basketball, six-man football, golf, softball, cross country and track. Additionally, martial arts, music lessons and opportunities for participation in different musical groups are offered after school throughout the year.

CAFETERIA PROGRAM

LA Caterers provides three choices a day for lunch. Students may purchase a lunch or bring their own lunch. Milk and juice are also available.

SPP After School Care (ASC) PROGRAM

For a nominal hourly fee, an after school care program is available for students attending Sts. Peter & Paul School. The program is available from one to six p.m. every school day, and is designed for flexible parental scheduling.

EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

The teachers and staff at Sts. Peter and Paul School strongly believe that technology is the key to our children's future! A strong emphasis is placed on technology and computer skills learned from the pre-kindergarten level through the eighth grade. Students will learn age appropriate applications that integrate the core curriculum. Sts. Peter and Paul School is equipped with Smart Board Technology in both the lower and upper grades, a cart of Alphasmart key boards and a cart of Alphasmart Neos for mobile use, and large flat screen televisions with streaming videos in each class.

FACULTY

Teachers, administrators and staff are hired not only for their experience and teaching credentials, but also for their ability to teach and uphold Christian values, morals and ethics.

FACILITIES

Our newly expanded campus features twenty-seven classrooms plus a complete science lab, state of the art computer lab, an art room, a well equipped library, air-conditioned gym, a new tutoring center and also a well-equipped primary playground.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Sts. Peter & Paul strongly encourages parental participation at all levels, and all parents are expected to take part in their children's educational experience at the school. All families are invited to join the Parent Teacher Council (PTC), whose purpose is to enhance and support the operation of the school through moral, spiritual, and financial assistance. This organization provides an enthusiastic and important group of parent volunteers and is under the direction of the Principal. Family involvement is essential to the operation of the school and helps to keep tuition reasonable. Parents are always welcome at the school.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

All students participate in age-appropriate community service projects throughout the school year. Students are taught that service is an important part of academic and spiritual life. Students are expected to provide community service by participating in school-day outreach

Overview of Curriculum

INTRODUCTION

Through a comprehensive approach to learning, Sts. Peter & Paul School curriculum ensures a mastery of essential skills and the development of critical thinking. Fundamental skills are emphasized in all grades. Upper grades are departmentalized to provide emphasis on content. Core subjects include religion, language arts, math, science and social studies. This curriculum is enriched with classes in technology, Spanish, fine arts, P.E, Study Skills and library. The goal of the school is to provide a Christian environment where every student reaches his or her spiritual, intellectual, and social potential.

RELIGION

Sts. Peter & Paul School religious curriculum teaches students to explore their faith, develop morally, and grow in the understanding and practice of that faith. The focus is on the catechetical year, which emphasizes five topics: service, prayer, creed, sacraments and Commandments. Students attend mass weekly and are encouraged to participate in the liturgy as lectors, cantors, altar servers, ushers and choir members. Students in the second grade are prepared for the sacraments of First Reconciliation & First Eucharist. Throughout the school year, students participate in service projects, both school wide and as individual classes, thus providing them the opportunity to provide outreach to others.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The language arts program is an integrated program of reading, writing, English grammar, spelling and handwriting. In order that students build a strong foundation in this area, skills in language arts are developed in a logical progression. Student achievement is assessed frequently, and instruction is tailored to meet each student's needs.

READING: The goal of the reading program is to develop strong phonics and comprehension skills, proficiency of vocabulary, and love of reading. A structural basal reader system, coupled with the study of selected novels, provides reinforcement, practice, and enrichment of basic skills. Comprehension is developed through the study of various genres of literature intended to meet the varied interests and reading levels of the students. The accelerated reader program is available to all students in kindergarten through eighth grades.

ENGLISH GRAMMAR & COMPOSITION: Students are able to develop their ability to communicate both orally and in writing using a variety of approaches at each grade level. Book reports, journals, essays, research reports and creative writing are examples of writing projects. Grade appropriate use of grammar, correct spelling, manuscript and cursive writing are expected in all curricular areas.

RESEARCH, ORGANIZATION & STUDY SKILLS: As reading and writing skills are developed, emphasis is placed on locating and synthesizing information. Students learn to use the Internet and library resources to discover additional information. Students present their learning in writing and also by oral and visual presentations. Student responsibility is fostered through keeping up with assignments in a journal.

MATH

The focus of the math curriculum is to develop proficiency in computation and problem solving skills as well as understanding of mathematical concepts. Instructional techniques provide for differences in learning styles and abilities with the use of manipulatives and real world examples. The math text is supplemented by hands-on activities. Pre-kindergarten students begin to learn the meaning of numbers. Students progress through basic number concepts and problem solving techniques to multi-step processes and algebraic and geometric foundations.

SCIENCE

The science curriculum provides opportunities for students to investigate and inquire about the world. Students receive instruction and practice in the scientific process, which includes questioning, formation of a hypothesis, predicting, collecting and interpreting data and drawing conclusions. At each grade level the topics of earth science, life science, physical science and health are explored.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies curriculum conveys a body of knowledge that integrates history with economics, geography, civics and culture in a way that integrates subject matter so that students can make connections and internalize their learning. It aims to equip students with specific skills that will help them become informed citizens able to participate in the democratic principals of our nation. The focus follows a natural progression from self to family to world emphasizing the social justice teaching of the Church.

TECHNOLOGY

Core subject curriculum drives the use of technology in the classroom, as well as in the computer lab. The classroom teacher and the technology coordinator work together to integrate class assignments with technology applications. The Alphasmart system will further facilitate curriculum and technology integration. Keyboarding proficiency in basic software applications, Internet use, and practice in reading and math skills are the focus of this area. Integration of technology results in improved student achievement.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The Spanish curriculum helps students develop an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of cultures in the Spanish -speaking world. Students develop advancing skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Classroom instruction emphasizes participation by students.

FINE ARTS

The fine arts program allows students to explore art and music. Within the art curriculum, students build perception and creation abilities, explore the history of art and it's cultural impact. The music curriculum helps students to understand the basic elements of music, including rhythm, creating music, and music history.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The goal of physical education is to promote physical fitness, develop motor skills, and foster teamwork. Sts. Peter and Paul school is a member of AIAL and participates in various interscholastic sports at fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

LIBRARY

The library supplements the core curriculum. The students explore literary genres and participate in the Accelerated Reader program.

Middle School Program

DESCRIPTION

Sts. Peter and Paul School middle school consists of sixth through eighth grades. Core academic courses are grade specific. Students are challenged to develop academic and physical skills, pursue knowledge, critically study and analyze the world in which they live. The academic program is designed to build upon the strong foundation that students acquire in the lower grades and prepare them to excel in future educational opportunities by using the **Core Knowledge** sequence.

In each grade, students will be exposed to a broad range of historical, scientific, and cultural topics that will build on one another to prepare them for later educational success. The wide array of subject matter will not only develop cultural literacy but also will build the strong vocabulary necessary for true reading comprehension.

The staff strives to instill a life-long love of learning.

SPIRITUALITY

As a parochial school, Sts Peter and Paul is part of a faith community of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. Religion is formally taught every day and Catholic values are incorporated into all subjects. Students attend and actively participate in Mass weekly.

REQUIRED & ELECTIVE COURSEWORK

Sixth Grade:

- Religion
- English-Literature and composition
- Science
- Social Studies – World History
- Mathematics
- Foreign Language – Spanish
- Physical Education
- Electives

Seventh Grade:

Religion
English- Literature and composition
Science
History- Texas
Mathematics- Pre-algebra
Foreign Language – Spanish
Physical Education
Electives
School Service

Eighth Grade:

Religion
English – Literature and composition
Science
History- American
Mathematics – Algebra*
Foreign Language- Spanish
Electives
Physics I*

*Course offered for high school credit

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS Competitive athletics are offered to students in the fifth through eighth grades. The Sts. Peter and Paul Panthers compete in the diocesan AIAL league. Practices for team sports are held after school. Our school fields a team each season: Fall- volleyball and six-man football; Winter- basketball and separate boys and girls teams for track in the spring. Additionally, golf and pep squad is offered.

RETREATS & TRIPS Class trips and spiritual retreats are offered to enhance the learning experience.

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY As a part of students' faith formation, each 7th grade student completes a year-long service project for the school, the parish, the local community and a global project in the "School Services" class.



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Admission Policy

APPLICATION PROCESS

In-house registration for current students and siblings occurs from January through March 31st 2010. All student applications (including ALL required information) are due by March 31, 2010. Applications received after March 31st, and on an ongoing basis, are considered based on space availability. In April 2010, applicants are notified by mail with regard to their enrollment status for the 2010-2011 school year. When applicants exceed class space, Sts. Peter and Paul School maintains a waiting list of qualified candidates. The waiting list is not numbered or in priority order. Should openings occur after the initial acceptance, all applicants on the waiting list for that specific grade level will be re-evaluated. The waiting list is only valid for the current school year and no additional fee is charged to remain in the waiting list. An applicant must resubmit an application the next admission period to be considered for the next school year.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All students seeking admission need to provide the following:

- ◆ *Application For Admission*
- ◆ Application fee (\$25 non-refundable), payable per all new students
- ◆ Certified copy of birth certificate
- ◆ Confidential *Teacher Reference*
- ◆ Current transcripts (if entering grades 1-8)
- ◆ Current immunization record
- ◆ Upon request, applicant must be made available for pre-admissions interview
- ◆ Copy of Social Security Card
- ◆ 50% of registration fees are due for returning families at registration
- ◆ 50% of registration fees are due upon receipt of acceptance letter for new students

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSIONS

Applicants will be considered based on the following criteria:

- ∪ Application form contents
- ∪ Proper age for prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade
- ∪ Academic transcripts, if applicable
- ∪ Teacher recommendations
- ∪ Interview
- ∪ School's ability/limitations to meet the students needs
- ∪ Admission Test

All final decisions regarding admittance rest with the school administration.



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Diocesan Admission and Continuation Policy

The Diocese of San Antonio Policy on Admissions to Catholic School states:

Attending a Catholic school is a privilege, not a right. The schools of the Archdiocese of San Antonio seek to offer a broad range of educational opportunities. However, the Catholic schools recognize the right of the principal to withdraw a student when such is in the best interests of the local school and/or the student.

In order to enter the first grade, a child must be six years old on or before September 1. Age must be verified by an official birth certificate. In accordance with this policy, on or before September 1:

- ◆ Prekindergarten students must be 3 years old
- ◆ Kindergarten students must be 5 years old
- ◆ First grade students must be 6 years old

An out-of-state child who is underage may enter the next appropriate grade if the child has completed the preceding grade and meets all other admission requirements.

Each local school shall require each applicant for enrollment to have a completed application form which includes a disclosure form, a release of confidential information/records form, and a locally developed set of written requirements for proceeding through the application process.

Any student seeking admission from a non-accredited institution or from home schooling shall have achievement testing (at the families expense) prior to entrance. Individual local schools may require additional testing and information prior to acceptance or denial of any student. Test results and assembled information may be used for placement purposes.

A principal is encouraged to include in the local application procedures any or all the following: interview of parent and/or student; consultation with appropriate Personnel of present and/or former school(s); review of social, medical, psychological, educational evaluation; and locally administered admissions testing. Schools may elect to include additional requirements in the written procedures.

Catholic educators recognize and attempt to address the needs of all those who seek a Catholic education. Although not legally bound to provide services for all students, schools will examine their ability to meet the needs of students who request entrance. In considering individual applications for admission, the following areas may be considered: impact on finances, impact on school personnel, duration of need for special services, and goals of the school.

The principal shall decide whether to accept the child, to deny acceptance, or conditionally to accept the child. If the child is conditionally accepted, the parent/guardian must sign the Conditional Acceptance Form. The school shall monitor and periodically review the progress of the student and shall provide a progress report to the parent/guardian. At the end of the time period specified in the Conditional Acceptance Form, the principal shall then determine whether enrollment shall be continued or termination shall be required.

1. SOURCE: Diocesan Office of Education Handbook policy 301, May 2001
2. Complies with diocesan regulations and Texas Education code 21.101.



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**Tuition and fees
For 2010-2011**

	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children
PreK3&4	\$3,900	Per Child	Per Child	Per Child
K5 – 8 th	\$3,450	\$3150	\$2800	\$2625

Registration Fees:

PK3-8 th Grades	Paid in full by May 1st
\$400	\$350.00

Half of the registration fee is due at registration time and the other half should be paid by May 1 to receive the discount. If the fees are paid after May 1, the full registration amount will be applied.

Tuition is collected either on a yearly basis or a 10 month basis. **Tuition on a 10 month basis will be collected from July through April of the school year.**

Tuition payments are due on the 1st of each month and late after the 10th. A late fee of \$30 will be added on all tuition payments not received by the 10th day of the month. If the 10th falls on a weekend or school holiday, the tuition payment due date will be extended to the first school day following the 10th.

A \$25 fee is required with each new student application. It is non-refundable and non-transferable.

A \$20 fee is required for each student for a school supply fee.

Students who participate in AIAL Sports will pay \$35 per team sport played.

After School Care

All billing will be handled through the front office.

Payment policy: After School Care will be billed on a monthly basis and follow the same payment policy as tuition payments. Services may be refused because of delinquent accounts.

Extended Day Rates per user:

	Full	3 Day	Drop-in Hourly
Aug	\$85	N/A	\$5
Sept – May	\$175	\$105	\$5

ASC will begin charging you for the hour after the first 15 minutes.

Penalty for picking child up after 6pm: \$5 p/minute (according to school's time).



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Admission Checklist and Timeline

Checklist

- Application for Admission**
Complete the *Application for Admission* and return to Sts. Peter and Paul's School office with a non-refundable fee of \$25 per application per new student. An admission test can then be scheduled.
- Birth Certificate and Social Security Card**
Provide a certified copy of the applicant's official birth certificate and a copy of applicant's social security card along with the above application.
- Teacher Reference**
Give the *Teacher Reference* to the applicant's current teacher along with a return envelope addressed to Sts. Peter and Paul School.
- Transcript and Records Release**
Sign the *Transcript and Records Release* and give it to the applicant's school office, authorizing the school to forward a copy of completed transcripts to Sts. Peter and Paul School.
- Current Immunization Record**
Provide current immunization records, adhering to Texas state and Comal County requirements.

Timeline

- Application Deadline**
Returning families should submit the application with half of the registration fees by March 31, 2010. Applications received after March 31st will be considered based on space availability. New families should submit applications and half of the registration fees by March 31st. When applicants exceed class space, Sts. Peter and Paul School will maintain a wait pool of completed applications. Students may be notified of acceptance during the school year if space becomes available. No additional fee is charged to remain in the wait pool for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Notification**
In April 2010, applicants will be notified by mail with regard to their enrollment status for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Registration Fees**
Upon notification of admission, all registration fees are due May 1, 2010 as follows:
(Returning families must pay 50% of general fees at time of registration)
General fee is \$400 per each PreK-8th grade student and \$350 if paid in full by May 1.

