

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Mission Statement

St. John Notre Dame Catholic School (TK through 8) is the primary educational ministry of St. John the Baptist Parish of the Diocese of Sacramento. We are a faith community committed to learning and serving with Christ. We provide a quality Catholic education through a culture of continuous improvement dedicated to academic excellence.

## Philosophy

St. John Notre Dame School exists to serve children. We seek to instill in them a love for lifelong learning by designing learning activities that will help our students mature into young people of faith, thought, integrity, and action. We recognize parents as the primary educators of their children. Our primary aim is to help our students develop to their fullest potential so that they may take their place as responsible Christian citizens in society.

## Motto

“Learning and Serving with Christ”

## Is the school accredited?

Yes, the school is accredited by the Western Catholic Educational Association/Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

## What is the school and class size?

There is one class each of grades TK - 8, with class size being 36.

## What about teacher-to-student ratio?

Grades 1, 3, 4, and 5 have full-time aides, creating a ratio of 1:18. Grade 2 has two part-time aides. K has a 1:10-12 teacher/student ratio and TK has a 1:8-10 ratio. Instruction in grades 6-8 is departmentalized.

## What is the curriculum?

As a part of the Diocese of Sacramento, the school's curriculum standards are Diocesan and are aligned with the new state and national Common Core Standards in Math and English/Language Arts.

## What is the cost, and is there any financial aid?

TK - 8 tuition rates for the 2019-2020 year are:

# of Students	Discounted Rate			Standard Rate		
	Monthly	Semi-annual	Annual	Monthly	Semi-annual	Annual
1	\$ 586	\$ 2,930	\$ 5,860	\$ 699	\$ 3,495	\$ 6,990
2	\$ 1,060	\$ 5,300	\$ 10,600	\$ 1,331	\$ 6,655	\$ 13,310
3	\$ 1,472	\$ 7,362	\$ 14,720	\$ 1,846	\$ 9,230	\$ 18,460
4	\$ 1,742	\$ 8,710	\$ 17,420	\$ 2,191	\$10,955	\$ 21,910
5	\$ 2,177	\$10,885	\$ 21,770	\$ 2,734	\$13,670	\$ 27,340

**Discounted Rate:** This rate applies to a family who has been a registered parishioner at St. John the Baptist Church for one full year prior to the start date of that child at St. John Notre Dame School or a registered parishioner at a neighboring parish without a school. This family is also regularly attending Mass at their respective parish and utilizing the parish envelope or online giving system.

**Standard Rate:** This rate applies to a family who does not meet the criteria for the discounted rate.

Tuition payments can be made monthly, semi-annually or annually. Registration fees are \$400.00 per child per year. Financial aid is available to all SJND families after being enrolled for at least one year upon request and is granted based on financial need. Financial aid is not available for TK.

**Are there any other requirements for enrollment?**

Yes. Each family is required to perform service and earn PIP (Parent Involvement Program) points through participation in officially sanctioned Parents' Club events. Parents and students must also accept the school's philosophy and mission, the leadership of the pastor and principal, and abide by the school's rules and regulations published in the Parent-Student Handbook distributed each spring.

**How do you determine who is accepted?**

The priority for acceptance is:

1. Families with siblings currently enrolled who are registered, active parishioners;
2. Catholic students transferring from another Catholic school;
3. Families who are registered, active parishioners and who are or who have been concurrently on the waiting list;
4. Families who are registered, active parishioners and are new to St. John Notre Dame School;
5. Active Catholic families from neighboring parishes;
6. Non-Catholic families.

**What is the school's annual calendar and daily schedule?**

The school operates on a traditional ten-month calendar. Classes begin in mid-August and conclude in late May. There are 180 days of instruction. The school day begins at 7:55 a.m. and dismisses at 3:00 p.m. for grades K-8.

**What about technology and foreign language?**

We have a 1:1 environment, with devices (iPads or Chromebooks) for every student from Kindergarten through grade 8. The school has a lab of 38 high-speed computers, interactive white boards in every classroom, and document cameras. We believe in the effective and appropriate use of technology by teachers and students to facilitate learning. Technology is integrated throughout the curriculum as we migrate towards a STREAM based education model. Spanish is also taught in grades K-8.

**What about extra-curricular activities?**

SJNDS participates in the Diocesan Parochial Athletic League for grades 5-8 in volleyball, flag football, golf, basketball, cross country, and track with "Little Dribblers" basketball for grades 1-4.

**Is there before and after school care?**

There is before and after school care every day that school is open beginning at 6:45 a.m. and closing at 6:00 p.m. Please see the literature on the Extended Day Program for more information on fees and tuition.

**How often do children go to liturgy?**

The pastor is very supportive of the school and arranges for us to celebrate as a school community every Friday morning at the parish 8:15 a.m. liturgy. In addition, students gather Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings as a school family for prayer and on Wednesday mornings for a School-Wide Prayer Service.