

St Joseph Elementary School, Alameda, California. TK-8

Vision

We believe that the children of St. Joseph Elementary School are the future of the community of St. Joseph, the city of Alameda, and the Catholic Church; and that children are integral to caring for God's great creation, Earth. Our school is dedicated to the education of each student in a Catholic environment rich in the love and teachings of Jesus Christ. We believe that each child is created in the image of God and want each one to thrive in an environment where the Gospel message is taught and lived.

Our educational approach of balancing the spiritual, academic, physical, and social development of our students empower them to become well-rounded and caring individuals. We challenge our students to develop a love of learning by utilizing a variety of teaching methods. This can be accomplished through a curriculum that fosters creativity, curiosity, and an understanding of their world. We motivate our students to realize their potential. An essential part of this development is **creating awareness within each student of the interconnected web of natural systems to which we all belong.** We are a Catholic school that builds our students' commitment to social justice and service to others through our outreach programs. Our dedication to community service helps students develop an active awareness of our local and global community, especially in regard to the struggles of those that are suffering from climate related calamities and the subsequent economic consequences.

We believe that the parents and guardians of our students bear the primary responsibility for providing the moral and religious development of their children. The school and the parish community enter into this active partnership to send forth responsible individuals who exemplify those values as well as the self-confidence and academic excellence necessary to attain personal success in their lives.

School Mission

Serving Alameda and neighboring cities since 1881, St. Joseph Elementary School embraces the principles of learning, loving and living God's word as Jesus taught us, and caring for God's creation. We are dedicated to educating and nurturing the whole child by offering a time-honored and challenging Catholic education. Inspired by the teachings of the Catholic Church and driven by the spirit of effective collaboration, we join together as a diverse community to honor kinship and creation and to know Jesus and to make Him known.

History

St. Joseph Elementary School is a ministry of the St. Joseph Basilica Catholic Church. The school is one of thirty-nine elementary schools in the Diocese of Oakland. The school began as Notre Dame Academy in 1881, a primary and secondary all-girls school staffed by the Sisters of Notre Dame, a Marianist order. In that same year in support of the academy, the St. Joseph Mission Church moved to its present location at San Antonio Avenue and Chestnut Street. The church would later become St. Joseph Basilica. St. Joseph Notre Dame High School also shares the campus with the elementary school.

The mission and vision of the parish community, including the two schools, is based on the five pillars of the Marionist charism; faith, Mary, community, mission and inclusivity. For the Marianists, the charisms embody a culture — the Marianist Family — where faith is celebrated and good work is done. The work of caring for God’s creation through direct action, education, and connection to Earth’s natural systems is supported in the Marionist charism.

School Stewardship Goals

St. Joseph is committed to creating awareness within each student of the interconnected web of natural systems to which we all belong. It is essential that the physical space, school culture, and educational program nurture a sense of personal responsibility among students, staff, and faculty to improve the environment within our school, the community, and the planet so students can become the next generation of environmental leaders.

Part of this goal is to collaborate with the neighboring SJND to create common outdoor education spaces and prayer/meditation niches. We will also evaluate different infrastructure projects for the entire elementary and high school campus, such as EV charging stations, solar panels, and a school wide food waste composting program. The compost created can go back into the maintenance of school grounds for landscaping and gardening. We also envision working together to accomplish stewardship projects and acts of good deeds for the Alameda community.

We also think that sharing our vision with the St. Joseph Parish will widen the effect of our efforts. It is our hope that the involvement of parishioners as well as students in stewardship and community service will create a ripple effect throughout the community, including Alameda Unified School District, toward caring for our shared environment.