

ST. JEROME PARISH SCHOOL
STUDENT / FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2000

Miss Zinda, our principal, and I have been emphasizing the Catholic identity of our elementary school more and more this past decade. I'm delighted to learn that a number of newly registered parishioners who take their faith seriously are deciding to send their child/ren to us.

By God's grace this is exactly how we will increase a solid core of practicing Catholics who can strengthen the bridge that should exist between the home and our school community.

First off, each parent is the primary teacher of their child/ren in the ways of faith. In tandem, our day school is here to reinforce the religious values consistently taught at home by lived example even more than by words. Our children are the ones who benefit most when this foundational collaboration is clearly in place for them to see, to experience and count on day after day.

Catholic elementary education by definition is a holistic formation, committed to integrate the spiritual, moral, academic, and social growth of a young person as a son or daughter of God. Priorities must be in that precise order for a parochial school like ours to accomplish its purpose. The solid grounding of our youth in a spiritual life with clear moral values hopefully challenges them to become their best selves, to develop their skills for the glory of God and their own happiness through generous service to others.

We gratefully note a number of impressive outcomes in recent years which assure us that while our program must always improve, it is already working. It is worth the prayers and sacrifices needed to make a distinctive difference in this 21st century.

Miss Zinda and I want to share these outcomes with you.

1. Our "Spirit Teams" continue to energize our school spirit beyond our initial expectation. Two 8th graders hone their leadership skills, co-directing a team with 16 other schoolmates K5 - 7 and a faculty observer. The team bonds close together over the course of a year through shared prayer, shared deliberation and a team commitment to hands on outreach beyond our school.
2. St. Jerome Parish School received "Exemplary Accreditation" in the areas of Mission, Community and Service for giving our children such a practical sense of their call from God, their responsibility to pitch in and work together on projects which help meet local, national and international needs.
3. Two of our 8th graders have won Prudential Insurance awards for outstanding service to the wider Oconomowoc community.

4. This is the third year in four that the United States Army has honored our 8th graders with the privilege of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in Arlington National Cemetery.
5. Many people compliment St. Jerome Parish School for our strong emphasis on the moral virtue of patriotism. Some tell us that our focus is unique in the area.
6. Our graduates routinely are named to the National Honors Society (NHS) at their respective high schools.
7. Three of our faculty (two now retired) were chosen several times for the “Who’s Who” listing of outstanding teachers by their former students in the NHS.
8. This school year one 8th grade student’s biography was printed in the Who’s Who Registry of Academic Excellence.
9. We have sent on a number of students who became Valedictorians and Salutatorians of their high school senior class.
10. Our students have won various writing contests sponsored by our two local newspapers.
11. One 7th grade student’s persuasive essay was published nationally this year.
12. Our 8th graders routinely score high (proficient – advanced level) on the standardized Wisconsin Knowledge and Concept Exams (WKCE).
13. The high schools our 8th graders attend often tell us how well-prepared our graduates are for their 9th – 12th grade years. Their respectful attitude, their good study habits, and their can do/joiner spirit frequently point them out.
14. This school year (2009-10) a sophomore at Catholic Memorial High School was chosen to play varsity basketball and help his teammates win the state championship for their division.
15. An alumna of St. Jerome attending Cornell College in Iowa made the academic Honors Court as an All-American Athlete, the career Scoring Leader and Senior Male Athlete of the Year (2009).
16. Two brothers from our school went on to Harvard and Notre Dame. Both are now in the rotation cycle of their medical studies. One just finished a year as a research assistant to Dr. Oz.
17. A 2001 graduate is now in the School of Dentistry, University of Minnesota.

18. The youngest in a family of five children is graduating from Notre Dame and will enter the Scholl School of Podiatry, Chicago, this Fall. Her siblings, also alumni of St. Jerome Parish School, include a lawyer, an MBA, a Ph.D. in nursing practice and a resident in general surgery.
19. Her young adult neighbors, four earlier St. Jerome graduates, include two physicians, a specialist in applied economics and a professional scriptwriter.
20. Mr. Michael Lex, a Jesuit scholastic and a 1996 alumnus, currently teaches at Creighton University Preparatory School, Omaha, before his graduate studies in theology and, hopefully, ordination to the priesthood.

And the list – like the beat – goes on. We thank the Lord that St. Jerome Parish School, rounding off its 83rd year of continuous ministry, helps prove the insight of a second century martyr, St. Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons: “The glory of God is the human person fully alive!” Amen. Alleluia.

∩ Fr. John G. Yockey, Ph.D.
Pastor of St. Jerome Parish and School
Dean of western Waukesha County
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