

# St. Margaret Catholic School

---

*Nurturing all children and achieving academic success in the Spirit of Christ.  
Established in 1949*

We believe:

- Education is one of the most important ways that the Catholic Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and the educational mission of the Church.
- Students learn in different ways and should be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support their learning.
- Each student is a valued individual with unique spiritual, physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs.
- Teachers, staff, administrators, parents, students and community members share in the responsibility of providing a supportive learning environment, thus fulfilling our school's mission.
- The commitment to school improvement is imperative for the school to enable students to become confident, self-directed, and lifelong learners.

## **We offer a traditional, progressive Catholic education in an open and nurturing environment.**

- Catholic morality and values integrated into the total learning environment
  - Morning, Noon, and Afternoon prayer with religious instruction and activities at all levels
  - Weekly Mass Liturgy
  - Full time Director of Religious Education
  - Education in Virtues and behavior development program
  - Monthly confession for 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
  - Curriculum Faith and Life Series
- Excellent student to teacher ratio with 275 students in grades Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup>
- Exceptionally diverse student body
- Yearly ASPIRE test scores rank above the national average
  - Accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools since 1990 (AdvancEd)
  - Accelerated Reader and STAR Reading and Math assessment
  - Approved by the Louisiana Department of Education and aligned with Louisiana Student Standards for ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies
- First school in Louisiana to use solar power to provide energy for school
- One of twelve schools nationally selected to receive the Catholic Schools of Tomorrow Award for Innovation Programs by *Today's Catholic Teacher* in 2009 and 2011

- Active competition with other local & national schools in various subjects including music, math, science, social studies, and art
- Fully accredited and state certified professional faculty
  - Full time junior high Spanish teacher, Special Education teacher, and Guidance Counselor
  - Full time certified PE, Art, and Computer teachers
  - Full time Librarian
  - Part time Music teacher with Kodaly Certification
- Superior technology tools & facilities
  - Mobile iPad carts and Google Chrome tablets
  - Mobile computer lab
  - Computer Literacy lab
- Monthly school-wide service projects
  - Adopt-A-Seminarian
  - St. Francis Clean Campus Project
  - New Life Counseling Christmas Project
  - Oak Park Food Pantry Drive
  - St. Joseph's Table
  - Jump Rope for Heart
- Extracurricular Activities & full range of athletic teams for grades 5 – 8
- Extended Day Care 3:00 – 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday
- Summer Child Care Program

# St. Margaret Catholic School

---

*Nurturing all children and achieving academic success in the Spirit of Christ.  
Established in 1949*



“We have been a SMCS family for the past 4 years and could not be happier. SMCS offers so much more than just an education. The students here truly learn what family and community mean. The teacher student ratio in the classroom allows the students to get that one on one quality teaching in a Christian environment. We truly feel that we made the right decision in choosing SMCS. If we had to choose one thing we love about SMCS it's the great friendships our child and our family have made, everyone is like family here. We feel our child is getting a quality education that will enhance his future with the tools he needs for success.”

Steven & Denise Bertrand  
SMCS Parents

“Faith, Love, Family

Our children are 3rd generation St. Margaret students. Our daughter graduated from after attending Kindergarten - 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and we currently have a 2nd grade student. From the moment it was our turn as parents to choose a place of faith and learning for our children, we knew it would be a tough choice. My wife is not from Lake Charles and had no prior knowledge of any schools here. We visited multiple schools in the area, but none could compare to St. Margaret's natural feeling of home. Our children have gotten so much more than just faith and learning, they have become part of something much greater in the St. Margaret family. Children are sponges and soak in everything around them. St. Margaret has become a reinforcing extension of what we teach at home. When our children are at school, they are still with their family, their St. Margaret Family. A place where children feel comfortable to be themselves allows for greater learning of school subjects, faith, social behavior, and self-confidence.”

Travis Manceaux  
SMCS Alumnus & Parent





“We love so much about SMCS. If I had to prioritize, the most important aspect would be the safe, caring, loving environment provided to our children. They have blossomed into loving, caring people because of the teachers and faculty at SMCS. The education they are receiving is first class and will allow them to be competitive in high school.

We have two boys, both have different needs. Through advanced classes like Spanish 1 and Algebra, our oldest has been challenged to try hard to succeed and think about his future in high school. He also has joined many clubs and taken on leadership roles in those organizations. SMCS has given him the opportunity to spread his wings and take on new responsibilities. Our youngest son is dyslexic so the written word stumps him. SMCS has given him the tools he needs to succeed. The teachers have worked with him on techniques and strategies. He is confident and unwavering in his desire to excel. SMCS has built his self-esteem greatly.”

Jen and Tommy Kihlken  
SMCS Parents

“It’s the closeness you feel when you walk through the doors. I attended St. Margaret from K - 8th grade and I still feel the same closeness when entering the school. Not only can you see the love of Christ at St. Margaret, you can feel it.

It is very difficult to express all that our children have learned from St. Margaret School thus far in just a few sentences. The knowledge that they are acquiring continues to amaze us. Not only are our children learning, but we are learning daily from them as well. In addition to academics, our children are learning life lessons by the modeling of love and compassion the teachers have shown our kids. These are skills that will continue to better our children as they grow and to us, that is priceless.”

Erin Clanton  
SMCS Faculty, Alumna & Parent





“Our family has been part of St. Margaret for over a half of a century with children, grand-children, and great-grandchildren of my parents attending every one of those years! There was never a doubt in my mind where my children would attend, even living over 25 miles away. St. Margaret is not just a church or a school. It is a family! Everyone knows everyone, and the new families are welcomed and immediately treated the same. I love everything about St. Margaret. The principal, office staff, and teachers have all been influential on how my children are raised, just as they had when I attended, displaying Christian and family values along with top level education. My oldest graduated last year and is excelling at St. Louis High School. It's all owed to the teachers and staff at SMCS.

Thank you, St. Margaret!”

Joni McMichael  
SMCS Alumna & Parent

“Here at St. Margaret, everyone is so family-oriented, so kind, and so welcoming. I love that we are all family and everyone is always so eager to help each other. I feel that St. Margaret has helped my children grow and learn so many things not only regarding academics, but about God, being thankful, and thinking of others’ feelings. They both have grown so much since they started SMCS in Pre-K. I am completely amazed and couldn't be any happier than I am with my children's accomplishments and achievements.

I could go on and on about how amazing our school and the staff are. There is no place I would rather be than St. Margaret Catholic School!

Go Vikings!”

Laurie Firmin  
SMCS Parent



“I love the welcoming atmosphere at St. Margaret.

We are small enough that you really get to know the kids and parents, but big enough to compete with the other schools academically and athletically. I love that my children go to church with their classmates on Fridays. They have the opportunity to be involved in the mass by singing, reading and altar serving. They are involved in the process from a young age, so that they are not afraid of standing up in front of their classmates. I think that has helped them with public speaking as they have gotten older. We love the school and the people we have met along the way. Some of our closest friends are parents of their classmates at St. Margaret. It is not just a place to learn, but a place to come together as families.”

Erin Alley

SMCS Alumna & Parent

# St. Margaret Catholic School

---

## Co-curricular Activities

St. Margaret Catholic School realizes that co-curricular activities play an important role in a child's development and education. Students are encouraged to develop their interests and talents, as well as leadership, teamwork, and responsibility through the variety of activities offered. The activities offered vary annually depending on the availability of parent/guardian sponsors.

Christmas Program	PreK – 2	Science Club	6 – 8
Cub Scouts	K – 5	Respect Life Club	6 – 8
Chess Club	1 – 8	Quiz Bowl	6 – 8
Elementary Choir	3 – 5	Jr. Catholic Daughters	6 – 8
Mighty Mu Math Team	3 – 5	Geography Bee	6 – 8
DARE	5	Spanish Club	6 – 8
Altar Servers	5 – 8	Art Club	6 – 8
Student Council	5 – 8	Jr. Beta Club	7 – 8
Jr. High Choir	6 – 8	National Jr. Honor Society	7 – 8
Cantors	6 – 8	Social Studies Fair	5 & 7
Come Lord Jesus	6 – 8	Science Fair	6 & 8

## Sports

St. Margaret Catholic School participates in the Calcasieu Catholic Athletic League (CCAL). The league consists of eight participating schools.

Pep Squad	4 – 8	Football	6 – 8
Basketball	5 – 8	Volleyball	7 – 8
Track	5 – 8	Cheer	7 – 8

# St. Margaret Catholic School

---

## Technology Program

St. Margaret Catholic School is committed to advancing technology in our curriculum and instruction. We have over 200 computers in our Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. Each classroom provides a technology station equipped with a document camera and laptop for students needing remedial instruction in Reading and Math. A wide variety of media and databases ( i.e. BrainPop, EBSCO, Education City, Discovery Education) are implemented daily. All grade level classrooms are equipped with Promethean or Smart Boards.

Technology is also used in communication with students, parents, and the community through the use of School Messenger, the school website, Facebook, and OnCourse, a student information system. A technology committee comprised of faculty and the technology coordinator creates short and long term plans for equipment rotation.

- The Computer Literacy Lab
  - 25 desktop computers and presentation system
  - Type to Learn Program is used in elementary grades to teach typing fluency
  - Components of Microsoft Office are used with students in grades 5 – 8.
- The Jo Self Library and Media Center
  - Smart Board, a document camera, 30 iPads, 2 mobile carts with 46 Chromebooks, and 4 searching stations with access to the library management software
  - Lab with 10 computers used for the Accelerated Reader program and information skills instruction
- Mobile Computer Lab
  - 20 laptops used to improve students' understanding of Math, Language Arts, and Science

# St. Margaret Catholic School

---

## Admission Policy

### Admission Priority

1. Students from families currently enrolled in St. Margaret Catholic School
2. Children whose sibling or parent completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at SMCS
3. Children from this church parish and students transferring from out of town who have history of Catholic education and whose families have registered in the this parish; priorities within this category will be determined by seniority as a registered St. Margaret Church parishioner or parish from which they were transferred
4. Catholic children from parishes that do not have Catholic schools
5. Catholic children from parishes that have Catholic schools
6. Children of other faiths

The principal reserves the right to refuse admission to any student, whether presently enrolled or under consideration for admission, who in the opinion of the principal will not be successful academically or behaviorally at St. Margaret Catholic School, or whose parents/guardians have not complied with school policies or procedures.

### Admission Requirements

Pre-Kindergarten 3: Must be three (3) years old on or before September 30 of the calendar year in which the school year begins

Pre-Kindergarten: Must be four (4) years old on or before September 30 of the calendar year in which the school year begins

Kindergarten: Must be five (5) years old on or before September 30 of the calendar year in which the school year begins

First Grade: Must be six (6) years old on or before September 30 of the calendar year in which the school year begins

The following documents must be presented at the time of application for admission:

1. State birth certificate (a copy to be kept at the school)
2. Baptismal certificate (Catholics only)
3. Immunization record (Health card)
4. Official transcript of previous grades, test scores, and medical information
5. In the event of a court ordered custody, the custodial parent/guardian will supply the school with a copy of the court order establishing custody

### Student Eligibility

- Students educational needs and school history are considered in determining eligibility for enrollment
- Students who have been suspended or expelled from any school are not eligible for enrollment
- Students who are under disciplinary action from any school are not eligible for enrollment
- If a student enrolls in SMCS and the majority of his/her peers, students, or teachers are negatively affected, the student may be asked to leave
- Information provided to the school is verified. False or misleading information given can result in an invalid registration and the student will be asked to leave