

Academic Excellence

How does St. Croix Catholic School compare to other educational options in the St. Croix Valley?

Consistency and Responsiveness

"Having experienced both public schools and now SCCS, I am impressed with the consistency that SCCS offers. At SCCS parents know to expect spelling tests every week, with every teacher, in every grade level 1-5. My observation is that SCCS offers a consistent program that builds strong basics. Our recent curriculum review process also verifies this consistency.

I'm also very impressed with the responsiveness of SCCS teachers and administration. As an example, when the parent survey asked for more hands-on activities in middle school science, within just a few short weeks, the students were actively engaged in many new exciting experiments. This kind of responsiveness would be very difficult in a multi-layered system. Parents are truly partners in their children's education at SCCS. Their voices are heard, listened to, and appreciated."

SCCS and public school parent

Advice on Maturity

"We moved our daughter to Stillwater Junior High in 8th grade, and found it was not a good decision. 7th and 8th grade are critical years of maturity, and the faith-filled environment that SCCS offers helps the students develop maturity and good decision-making. By 9th grade, the students as a whole are much more mature, and it's a better time to integrate in. Observing SCCS students coming into the system in 9th grade, you see confidence, responsibility, and strong morals. They transition very well. I highly recommend staying at SCCS through 8th grade."

SCCS and public school parent

From the Perspective of a Graduate

"The math program at St. Croix Catholic School helped me to be prepared to take on the accelerated math track at St. Thomas Academy High School and therefore take advantage of greater opportunities as I moved on into my college years. I feel that the intellectual, social, and spiritual formation I received in the highly critical years of my life I spent at SCCS was a vital component of what has helped me to become the person I am now."

David Riehm, SCCS class of 2003

Freshman chemical engineering major, University of Notre Dame

Received highest achievement award in science from St. Thomas Academy

And, From David's Parents

"The contribution that St. Croix Catholic School has made to the education and raising of our family is immeasurable, and we will always be grateful that God granted our children the opportunity to attend this very strong and wonderful school."

Steve and Mary Riehm

Hands-On Science and Interdisciplinary Projects

Did you know our middle school students are working in the lab once per week? Our physical, life and earth science classes are working hard developing hands-on competencies, while bringing the relationships and theories they read about to life.

Our physical science students have been building foil boats to calculate buoyant forces, and confirming factors that affect rotation speeds of lawn sprinklers. Life science students have been calculating how many viruses fit on the head of a pin, how disinfectants control bacterial growth, and the affect fertilizers have on algae proliferation. Lastly, our earth science pupils are busy locating an earthquake's epicenter, building earthquake proof model homes, and learning to identify rocks and minerals.

Our middle school teachers work very cooperatively with one another to provide challenging opportunities. This spring, watch for park models and roller coasters, an interdisciplinary collaboration between Math, Science, and English.

Teaching Excellence and Dedication

- All SCCS teachers hold current licensure.
- Nine teachers have earned or are working toward their masters degrees.
- Two staff members have obtained and one is working toward an Educational Specialist degree.
- Two staff members are nearing completion of doctorate degrees.
- All SCCS teachers have demonstrated their commitment to Catholic education and to SCCS in particular in their tenure and their love for the school. As longtime teacher, Mrs. Gwen Buck, shares, "St. Croix Catholic School has been a part of my life for many years. As a teacher and parent, I've witnessed the dedication and professionalism of the SCCS staff. For me, there has never been a doubt about where I belong – it's at SCCS."

Religious Sisters

SCCS is the first *and only* school in Minnesota to receive the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia of Nashville, Tennessee. We have been blessed with their presence and excellent teaching for five years now! Additionally, SCCS has been blessed with the presence of Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet since our founding in 1856; Sister Shirley Deutsch continues this legacy.

High School Equivalency in Spanish

Spanish is offered at SCCS in grades 1-5 and again in 8th grade. This consistency is unique in the local school district. Our 8th grade Spanish is the equivalent to Spanish I at Stillwater schools, thus giving SCCS graduates the option of testing out of first year Spanish and moving directly into Spanish II.

Comprehensive Computers

Students in grades K-5 learn basic technology skills and computer safety. The elementary computer course enhances math, science, social studies, and the writing curriculum. This instruction culminates in 6th grade with a very comprehensive and high level skills-building course, covering: Word, PowerPoint, web pages, Excel spreadsheets, iMovies, robotics, exploration of computer careers, and much more. Skills developed in 6th grade are utilized in all subject areas throughout the middle school years.

Image of God Series

When Pope Benedict recently visited the United States he addressed the topic of Catholic education and stressed the need to be holy *above all else*. SCCS lives this directive. Our textbook series, *Image of God*, enriches the mind while nourishing the heart. And, this is brought to life by faith filled teachers in a Christian environment. Thus our students are not being pushed towards the goal of holiness but rather are being drawn to it by all that they see in their faith. And, as they strive to respond they receive the full support of and encouragement from the SCCS community to embrace their individual calls to holiness.

Coming soon: *Learn how our graduates are doing in local High School Honor Rolls, National Honor Societies and as National Merit Scholars. test scores, math tracks, a look at our in depth and unique history, and much more.*