

Our Catholic middle school

FACT SHEET

Building on Faith and Family St. Joseph Pewamo

Middle school isn't just the next grade. It's an entirely new stage in your child's education and your family's life together.

In fact, it is arguably the most vulnerable period in your child's life. Your child and their peers are going through the biggest physical and emotional changes of their lives. They are becoming more independent, expanding friendships, exploring new interests and developing their own system of values.

We understand the importance of middle school—a time of transition between childhood and young adulthood.

St. Joseph offers a distinct advantage for middle school students for many reasons:

Building Catholic Leaders

The faith formation curriculum of a Catholic middle school keeps faith central by inspiring students to grow in knowledge and practice. It encourages students to apply the information they learned at the elementary level as they begin to solidify their own values system. It provides them with a moral foundation for the coming challenges of high school and beyond. Key factors that distinguish middle school faith formation include:

- Religion class that focuses on the study of our **Catholic creed, moral life, Christian prayer, the liturgy and the sacraments**
- Students become more engaged in **community outreach**
- Students participate more fully in the **liturgy**
- **Retreat/reflection days** help students explore God's love for them and their relationships with each other
- Students prepare for **confirmation**



Academic Excellence

The curriculum of a Catholic middle school builds upon students' increasing ability to do critical thinking. The emphasis shifts from acquiring reading and math skills to utilizing those skills to solve problems. Instead of answering questions, students are encouraged to raise questions as part of their classroom and research work.

Visible differences from elementary education are also apparent:

- Greater integration of **technology** to mirror the reality students encounter outside of school
- **Subject area experts** get to know students through a multi-year relationship
- Emphasis on **21st century learning**—knowledge students will require to live and work in the future, such as critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, communication and collaboration

New horizons, familiar surroundings

Throughout the U.S., parents and educators increasingly value K-8 schools for the stability they provide. The familiar, secure environment helps balance the huge changes middle school students are going through. In addition, a Catholic middle school strengthens families in their faith. Adolescence can be a trying time for both parents and children. The common faith shared between home and school assures us that God's love is present even in the midst of growing pains. Other benefits include:

- **Small class sizes**—The optimum student/teacher ratio allows for individualized attention
- **Caring teachers**—They model Catholic values and reinforce the lessons learned
- **Community spirit**—Healthy social interactions, extracurricular and service activities, and opportunities for parental involvement

A mutual commitment

In sending your child to a Catholic middle school, you're making a faithful commitment to your child's future. We understand that you're making a financial commitment as well. We are committed to keeping Catholic education affordable by offering scholarships and financial aid packages. Please don't hesitate to contact us, in confidence, to learn more about the various options available.



Our students are able to make a smooth transition from their elementary education, through the years of middle school, then on to the high school of their choice. We invite you to visit one of our middle school classrooms and talk with the teacher. Discover how attending middle school here can help your child make great strides in academic and faith development.

Our academics

Our middle school curriculum takes into account the intellectual needs of students at this age. It features the following:

- language arts, math, social studies, science, pre-algebra and algebra
- P.E., art, computers, band/music

Our faith formation

Religious instruction moves forward with the lessons learned in elementary school and helps middle school students grow in knowledge and faith. It includes:

- Daily religion class, Bi-weekly Mass
- Students serve as readers, altar servers and choir members
- School-wide community service projects
- Confirmation preparation

Our middle school faculty

Our school is blessed with a talented and skilled middle school faculty.

- Designated science, math, language arts and social studies teachers
- Certified through the state of Michigan
- Certified catechists, CPR/AED certified, blood borne pathogen certified

Our extracurriculars

From clubs to athletic teams, students have more opportunities to be involved in many activities without having to specialize. Your child can look forward to:

- Spiritual Student Council, all-school activities, field trips, athletics
- Community service projects

Our scholarships

Please contact our school office, in confidence, to discuss the assistance that is available, including:

- Kremer Scholarship
- The Bishop's Scholarship

For more information about middle school at St. Joseph Pewamo, please call us at 989-593-3400.



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illuminates learning and life

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