

Assumption Catholic School

“Providing a challenging, academic education where faith, children, and learning come first.”

Our Philosophy & Vision

The philosophy of education at Assumption Catholic School follows the guidelines of the Education Department of the Diocese of St. Augustine. Our curriculum is designed to provide each child with an opportunity to realize the three fold purpose of Christian education: message, community, and service. In addition to forming students who are creative and adaptable, we work to build in them a real concern for the welfare and dignity of all people.

At Assumption, we believe that each student is a unique child of God. Our Catholic school works to reflect the integration of Catholic faith and values with learning and life on a daily basis. Providing a Catholic education is an integral part of the Church’s mission in terms of proclaiming the gospel message of Jesus, building faith communities, and celebrating through worship and service to others. Student learning, in a comfortable, supportive, and safe environment, is accomplished in a variety of ways. The pastor, priests, Sisters of the Home of the Mother, administrators, teachers, parent organizations, and the parish share the responsibility for the mission of the school.

Important Information

Communication

In today’s world, communication is very important! Assumption works to communicate in a variety of ways so that families can find the one that works best for their life style!

- Website – always visit www.assumptionjax.org for useful information
- Tuesday Reminders – the principal sends out a weekly email full of important information, registration forms, and a calendar as well as write ups and pictures displaying the day and day happenings of our school
- Friday Folders – student work and some paperwork comes home every Friday
- ParentsWeb – each parent creates an account to access student grades and important information for their child’s classes
- Text Messages – important messages, such as practice cancelations and last minute reminders, are sent out via text message

Diocesan Events & Competitions

- Angels for Allison Art Competition
- Bishop's Bowl
- Brain Brawl
- Geography Bee
- Grade School Art Show
- Maryknoll Student Essay Contest
- Modern Woodman Speech Contest
- Respect Life Contest
- Science Fair
- Spelling Bee

Enrichment and Gifted Opportunities

The Enrichment Program, offered to students in 2nd to 5th grade, is a program devised for the high achieving, responsible student who wishes to gain freedom to explore content and develop themselves intellectually and socially. In order to participate, a student must meet very rigid criteria and is responsible for maintaining high academic classroom performance in all subject areas. Once students reach 6th grade, an advanced class is offered. Students stay in this class the entire school day. Criteria for both opportunities is outlined below and students must meet all requirements in order to be placed in these programs.

- A score in the top percentile on ITBS or other comparable assessments
- A top percentile score on STAR Reading and STAR Math assessments (given at Assumption)
- Teacher recommendation based on performance both academically and behaviorally (previous school will be contacted)

Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

Assumption offers accommodations for children with documented needs. Individual Educational Plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or psychological evaluations must be on file for a student to receive accommodations. When applying to our school online, simply check off the appropriate box indicating your child has one of these three documents. Then, provide our Director of Admissions with a copy via email, fax, or by turning it in at the office. Our ESE coordinator will then review the documents to see if Assumption can meet the needs of your child. We want all students to be successful at our school and take this part of the application process very seriously.

Extracurricular Activities

Assumption wants all children to find an area to excel in while they attend our school. We offer many opportunities for students to shine and use the talents God blessed them with. Below are a few examples of clubs and sports your child can participate in during the year.

- Sports that require tryouts:
 - Boys' JV and Varsity Basketball and Softball
 - Girls' Basketball, Volleyball, and Softball
 - Coed Soccer
 - Cheerleading
- Sports that all can participate in:
 - Cross Country (5th to 8th grade)
 - Assumption Basketball League (K to 8th grade)
 - Assumption Soccer League (K to 8th grade)
- Clubs
 - Brain Brawl
 - Robotics Club
 - Art Club
 - Garden Club
 - Glee Club
 - Rosary Club
 - Hand Bell Choir
 - Little Flowers Club (religious based)
 - Girls on the Run
 - Middle School Chorus
 - Student Council
 - National Junior Honor Society

Fine Arts Department

Assumption is proud to provide students with opportunities to excel in the area of fine arts. Our award winning Glee Club travels to compete in at least one competition a year. Auditions are held for our annual school musical. Students rehearse extensively and help with the props, costumes, and set. They also run backstage and the sound system during the two night performances of the musical!

Our Art Program is always growing at Assumption! From the student created Art Club to our use of Artsonia, the students' talent is always amazing! Our art and music teachers work together to host a Fine Arts Night each year for students to be able to showcase their talents. Artwork is framed and sold to raise money for the department and students are able to perform in a talent show!

Home & School Association (HSA)

HSA is a parent organization whose main functions are to organize school events, coordinate volunteers, and assist with communication between school, parents and the community. The HSA supports and sponsors many of the events and activities around Assumption school that our students love. Volunteering and being involved helps make

our school one that our children are excited to attend! Each family is required to volunteer a minimum of 20 hours per school year.

Lunch Program

- Our cafeteria staff prepares almost all food in house including a daily hot lunch, sandwiches, salads, and pasta salads.
- Students may also purchase fruit, yogurt, chips, cookies, and other snack options.
- Pizza is served every Monday and it is the only item we serve that is prepared outside of our cafeteria.
- Myschoolbucks.com is used for all students' lunch accounts. Parents add money to students' accounts online and they can also set limits so they are notified when their child's account needs to be replenished.

Religious Emphasis

Although we are here to educate your child, teaching Christ is the most important thing we do at Assumption. Our school works to make our faith an everyday part of your child's education. Throughout the year, students will take part in many activities that lead to developing a closer relationship with God, Jesus, and Mary. Here are a few examples of the religious activities that go on at Assumption:

- Students attend Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every week.
- Our pastor, Fr. Fred, teaches religion class once a week to 7th and 8th grade students.
- The Sisters of the Home of the Mother teach religion class one day a week in all grade levels.
- Every morning at 7:25 the students who are on campus say a decade of the Rosary to start the day off right. We also say the Rosary, as a school, throughout the year.
- Every student takes part in an All Saint's Day Parade and special Mass.
- Lenten and Advent Retreats are held to reflect on the true reason of these liturgical seasons.
- First grade performs in a special "Nativity Play" for the whole school.
- We celebrate Mother Mary's birthday with "Muffins for Mary".
- During Lent, we meet as a school to pray the Stations of the Cross. Eighth grade also acts out the Living Stations of the Cross before Easter vacation.
- We host a "Blessing of the Animals" and families bring their pets to school for a special blessing.
- The school performs charity work and community outreach with organizations such as Catholic Charities.

Resource Classes

Resource classes are still very important here at Assumption. All students attend Art, Music, and Media Technology classes once a week. Students also receive two days of Spanish instruction and PE two days a week. Kindergarten attends PE five days a week so that they have scheduled time every day to be active and play!

Students in 7th and 8th grade are able to sign up for Elective courses each semester. These include options such as Photography, Sports Journalism, Yearbook, Print Media, Team Sports, and Musical Improvisation.

Sacramental Preparation

Students in 2nd grade receive the Sacraments of Penance and First Holy Communion and students in 8th grade receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Sacramental preparations take place all year. Students attend weekend retreat days as well as school day retreats, which are communicated months in advance. The Sisters of the Home of the Mother and our pastor, Fr. Fred, are also very involved in sacramental preparations.

Special Events

- Breast Cancer Awareness Activities
- Fall Festival
- Father/Daughter Dance
- Fine Arts Night
- Food & Farm Festival Week
- Gala Fundraiser
- Grandparents' Day
- Junior High Dance
- Mother/Son Event
- Parent Coffees
- Pep Rally's to celebrate Fall and Spring Sports
- Spirit Nights at local restaurants

Student Testing

Gathering information about our students is what all good teachers do in their classrooms each day! Students also complete different tests throughout the year so that we can measure their growth and properly meet their individual needs.

- Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) – this assessment is given to all 1st and 2nd grade students at least three times a year. Kindergarten students also take this assessment at the end of the year.
- STAR Reading – students in 2nd to 8th grade take this test at the beginning, middle, and end of each year.
- STAR Math – students in 2nd to 8th grade take this test at the beginning, middle, and end of each year.

- Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) – this test, administered in March, is taken by students in 2nd to 8th grade.
- COGAT – this test is administered in March to students in 2nd grade.
- ACRE – this religious based test is administered to 5th and 8th grade students on a bi-yearly basis.

Frequently Asked Questions

What percentage of the Assumption student body is non-Catholic?

About 20% of our student body is non-Catholic. There is absolutely no pressure put on students who are not Catholic to convert. However, this is a Catholic school, where each student will learn and be exposed to the Catholic faith on a daily basis.

What percentage of 8th graders go to Bishop Kenny after graduating from Assumption?

About 90% of our students attend Bishop Kenny High School. It is a seamless transition and a great fit for most of our students. A handful of students also attend Bishop Snyder as well as other public schools around town. Eighth grade students have the opportunity to go on field trips to both Bishop Kenny and Bishop Snyder for a day.

What are the safety procedures at Assumption?

Student safety is a very high priority at our school. All exterior doors remain locked and we have several gates around campus that require remote access through the use of surveillance cameras. Visitors may only enter campus through the front office and must sign in and wear a visitor's badge.

Students at Assumption practice safety drills monthly so that they are calm and prepared in the case of an emergency. This includes fire, tornado, and "Danger Stranger" drills.

What time can I drop off my child in the morning?

We provide morning care, at no charge, beginning at 7:00. At 7:25 we start the day with a decade of the Rosary. Students are then released to the classrooms at 7:30 and are considered tardy at 7:55 when the bell rings.

What time is dismissal?

We do three staggered dismissals so that car line runs smoothly. Each parent is also given a car tag to hang from their rear view mirror so that we can call student names efficiently. Every Wednesday is an early release day with the times in parenthesis below.

Yellow Car Line (oldest child in 4th grade) – 2:40 (1:30)

Green Car Line (oldest child in 5th grade) – 2:45 (1:35)

Blue Car Line (oldest child in 6th to 8th grade) – 2:55 (1:35)

Do you provide aftercare?

Yes, Assumption provides aftercare to our students from 3:15 (2:15) until 6:00. The cost is \$5 for one child and \$3 for each additional child. An online system is used to track aftercare and parents make payments through this system.