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## PROSPECTIVE STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

PLEASE PRINT

1<sup>st</sup> STUDENT'S FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE ENTERING FOR 2016-2017 \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> STUDENT'S FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE ENTERING FOR 2016-2017 \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?

- Facebook
- Friend
- Newspaper
- Church
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **Catholic Identity**

Our strong Catholic identity instills in our students self-respect, self-reliance, compassion, and love. Christian values are fundamental to the lessons we teach every day. We are inspired by the virtuous and selfless life of Southern Maryland's daughter, Mother Catherine Spalding.



### **Daily Prayer to Mother Catherine Spalding**

Catherine Spalding,  
Patroness of our school,  
You accepted many changes in your life  
Including the loss of your parents at a young age  
By your example,  
You show us how we can accept change in our lives.  
Give us the courage to be generous in helping people  
Who need our love and care.  
With your guidance, help us to be leaders,  
Loving God, our families, enemies, friends, and neighbors.  
Amen.

## **Chapel**

Students have the opportunity to visit the Blessed Sacrament during the day at the chapel in the east side of our building. This provides a quiet, special place for students to spend time in prayer.

## **Service**

At Mother Catherine Academy we find many ways to dedicate our time and talents to serve the community. We strive to model Jesus' example of service to others. The following is a list of some ways we reach out to others each school year:

- St. Jude's Math-a-thon
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Cookies for Cancer
- Quilts for veterans
- Collect donations for the local nursing home residents
- Collect food donations for the local food pantry
- Collect coins during Lent and give to a charity of student choice
- Buy Christmas presents for local children in need
- Create care packages for our military services
- The Art of Giving, where students create art projects to donate or to use for fundraising

## **Weekly Mass**

The students and teachers of Mother Catherine Academy prepare the liturgy for the weekly Mass held in the school auditorium. You are welcome to join us on Tuesday mornings at 9am for the school's Mass. Priests from our surrounding parishes graciously take turns visiting our school to celebrate these Masses.

## **Rosary**

During the months of October and May our students gather outside in front of the Blessed Mother at 7:40am to begin the school day by praying a decade of the rosary led by our 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

## **Stations of the Cross**

During Lent students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> take turns leading the school in Stations of the Cross on Thursday mornings. Stations begin at 7:55am. Our culminating event for Lent occurs on Holy Thursday with our 8<sup>th</sup> graders presenting the Living Stations. This is one of the most moving events of the school year.

## **Religion**

The mission of Mother Catherine Academy is the religious and academic formation of students in preparation for their lives as productive Catholic adults. Mother Catherine Academy is dedicated to a total educational program. We believe that every facet of life is important: spiritual, physical, intellectual, and emotional. We strive to instill Christian values so that each student becomes a force of good in God's world. Concurrently, our educational program leads, encourages, and aids each student to develop his/her intellect to its full potential. We respect the unique attributes of each student. By providing the atmosphere of living and learning in the light of faith, we encourage each individual to become a whole person-his/her own person through our Catholic identity.

## **Christian Formation**

- To develop an awareness of Christ in self and in others
- To develop Christian values and attitudes
- To increase the knowledge of and respect for the teachings of Christ
- To present basic Catholic doctrine
- To continue formation and development of a faith community involving the faculty, priests, students, and parents
- To deepen appreciation for various prayer forms through active participation
- To prepare our children for Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation

## **Language Arts**

The Elementary Language Arts curriculum for Mother Catherine Academy has been developed to enable each student to be introduced to language as a viable form of communication, as an invaluable skill, and an art to be enjoyed. The philosophy inherent in the curriculum is one of continuous growth, which recognizes and nurtures the God-given potential and learning style of the individual. Language, as communication, enables the student to become more perceptive through the sharpening of the senses of listening, observation, and feeling. Oral and written communication allows the student to clearly express what is perceived. Language, as a skill,

provides the student with the important tools to listen attentively, speak fluently, read and comprehend, compose, write legibly, and spell correctly in order to be clearly understood. An awareness of the history of language and the continuous development of vocabulary also are important phases of skill development. An appreciation of the art of literature enriches through experience with skillful authors who vicariously open new worlds of adventure.

## **Mathematics**

It is our mission to enable all students to learn the skills, acquire the knowledge, and develop the attitudes in mathematics and technology for them to reach their fullest potential as morally and socially responsible citizens who can meet the challenges of a changing global society. We must meet the demands of this new era of technology by preparing students with strong moral principles, inquisitive spirits, and probing minds. We must excite students to move forward on their own, to develop proof for answers, to learn from one another, and to seek verification from other members of the class as well as society. The Elementary Mathematics curriculum at Mother Catherine Academy focuses on problem solving, and uses content that develops students' conceptual understanding of mathematics, appreciation for its applications, ability to communicate mathematically, and proficiency in computational skills.

Our children in the middle school are also challenged with the Advanced Math Program whereby they:

- Develop the value of mathematics
- Do and apply mathematics competently
- Find and solve problems
- Communicate mathematically
- Reason mathematically
- Apply problem-solving and decision-making skills to real life situations
- Become self-directed life-long learners
- Use appropriate communication and group interaction skills
- Demonstrate concern, tolerance, and respect for others

## **Physical Education**

We recognize the need to teach children to be physically active and develop healthy habits. The PE curriculum is a quality program, which allows students to use their ability to achieve success. This program assists students in identifying their strengths and weaknesses and encourages students to build on their strengths to achieve personal goals. Students learn to follow rules and to respect the rights of others through games and physical activity. Learning to channel energies constructively will help students to perform successfully in life.

## **Science**

The science curriculum in the elementary school focuses on an inquiry–based process and fosters collaborative learning. The science curriculum enables students to use scientific principles and processes to make thoughtful personal decisions and to be pro-active in the solution of scientific problems that affect society. A solid education in science strengthens life skills such as creative problem solving, critical thinking, team cooperation, use of technology, and the value of life-long learning.

## **Social Studies**

The study of history and the social sciences is vital to the success and progress of a representative democracy. This curriculum will aid students to become more knowledgeable citizens who are prepared to shape the future of our nation and the world. Emphasis on Catholic social teachings stress the importance of the common good and will empower students to be actively involved in building a more just society.

## **World Languages**

Students at Mother Catherine Academy are given the opportunity to study a world language to help meet the needs and demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Because the Church is universal and embraces all peoples regardless of race, nationality, and financial status, our school provides basic language concepts in Spanish.

## **Primary Grades**

Research shows that quality early childhood education has positive and lasting benefits for young children. Strong foundations for learning are established and children are encouraged to develop to their full potential. The early years of a child’s learning make a significant difference to the way they develop and go on to learn throughout their lives. Getting it right at this vital stage will build the lifelong foundation of success. The Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten curriculum provides each classroom teacher with the tools to guide the essential learning process throughout these early and foundational years. Within the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs, good communication between the teachers at both levels is crucial. Communication is essential with the first grade teacher to ensure the strengths of this early foundation as the child progresses toward early levels of success.

## **Music**

The music curriculum is designed to broaden a student's general knowledge of basic musical skills and concepts at all levels of elementary education. Through participation in the music program, students are lead in a deeper appreciation of liturgy, ethnic cultures, and musical styles. Music holds a prominent place in the spectrum of arts and is of paramount importance in the development of the whole child. Our students participate in music with various instruments such as xylophone, recorders, piano, and guitar. Private piano lessons are offered during the school day. Chorus is available in grades 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **Art**

The objective of the art curriculum is to introduce and develop art skills while incorporating the elements of art and principles of design. This is achieved by familiarizing students with artists and art history. Our mission is to build an appreciation of art, teach creative skills, encourage confidence and creativity in the production of art, and prepare students for high school art classes.

## **STEM**

Students participate in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program supported by engineers who lead the classes once a week, during the program, to guide them through projects. The program teaches children research, programming, mathematics, engineering, and teamwork. The months-long effort culminates in a competition with area schools at which our students have consistently earned top honors.

## **Agricultural Lab**

Students are afforded first-hand experience of God's gift of life through the school's unique agricultural lab. When appropriate, teachers incorporate lab projects in their classes ensuring students receive a well-rounded, hands-on educational experience rooted in the real lifestyle and traditions of southern Maryland. Produce from the lab is donated to area organizations committed to feeding the hungry in our community.

## **Tech Center**

Students learn to leverage technology to achieve their goals in the school's tech center, which features the latest hardware. Weekly coursework teaches children how to use the software tools needed to succeed in high school, including word processing, spreadsheets, graphic design



programs, and more. For students who want to take their technical expertise to the next level, an after-school Computer Club meets weekly, in which students learn to program computers by working on their own projects under the guidance of a professional software engineer.

## **Student Life**

Life at MCA is a rich experience for students. Our small class sizes, typically 30% smaller than the average class in a St. Mary's County public school, provides our award-winning faculty a unique opportunity to teach a challenging curriculum and closely follow the progress of each child, tailoring each student's experience to ensure everyone's success. This enhanced educational program bolsters our academics. The program teaches children:

- Visual and musical arts to nurture creativity
- Computer skills to prepare students for the technological challenges of high school and beyond
- Library and research experience to ensure ready access to knowledge throughout life, and
- Rigorous physical education to start children on the path of a healthy lifestyle

## **Basketball**

Mother Catherine Academy is a part of the Sunday Youth Basketball League (SYBL). Students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades can participate in JV and Varsity programs for boys or girls. We are very proud of our student athletes and encourage participation in athletics to help in the formation of a well-rounded child in both body and mind.

## **Cheerleading**

Girls in 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade may participate in the cheerleading program, which is also part of SYBL. The cheerleading program encourages teamwork and group social interaction across age groups.

## **Volleyball Club**

Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are able to participate in the volleyball club. The goal is to become familiar with the rules of the game, exercise after school, and to learn to work as teams. Intramural games are played to encourage character and sportsmanship.

## **Before and After School Program**

MCA provides both before and after care programs. Before care is from 6:00am to 7:30am and after care is provided from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.

## **Admissions**

All children, regardless of religious affiliation, are welcome at Mother Catherine Academy. We strive to ensure every child who wants to attend our school has the opportunity and support to do so. Tuition assistance is available through several sources.

## **Tuition**

Tuition for the 2016-2017 academic year is as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> child	\$5,460
2 <sup>nd</sup> child	\$4,095
3 <sup>rd</sup> child	\$750
Additional children	FREE

Several payment options are available including annual, semi-annual, quarterly, and monthly to suit the unique needs of each family.

## **TADS**

TADS is an online tuition management organization that MCA uses to register children and collect tuition. It is also where families will apply for tuition assistance if needed. In order to begin the process, families must contact the school to receive a code and then enter that code online at [www.tads.com](http://www.tads.com). Families will then be able to complete registration, sign a tuition agreement, and apply for tuition assistance all in one location.

## **Tuition Assistance**

Tuition assistance is available to families based on financial need. MCA is fortunate to have several options for tuition assistance. These include the Archdiocese of Washington tuition assistance program, the Mother Catherine Spalding School Legacy Scholarship, which is provided from an endowment that was created for the former school, and the local Catholic parishes. Families apply through [www.tads.com](http://www.tads.com) for all of these sources of tuition assistance.

## **Fundraising Commitment**

Educating each child costs more than \$12,000. In order to provide affordable tuition, parents must commit to several fundraising efforts. Fundraising ensures that MCA remains affordable everyone regardless of their family's financial situation. Parents must participate in three mandatory fundraisers each year or pay a \$100 buy-out for each missed fundraiser. Parents also must commit to purchasing \$2,000 in Scrip cards. Scrip cards are similar to gift cards and there is no mark-up. So while the Scrip program earns money for the school, it does not actually cost parents anything more than they normally would spend on everyday items such as groceries, electronics, and restaurants. Parents must also dedicate at least 20 hours of volunteer service to the school per year as well as work six nights at our weekly Bingo fundraiser. After tuition, Bingo is the largest source of income for the school and the participation of all parents is vital to the financial stability of the school. There is a \$200 per night buy-out for Bingo if a parent is unable to attend and is unable to find a suitable replacement.

## **Uniforms**

Uniforms are purchased through Lands' End. Please see their website [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com), click on Uniforms, and then search for Mother Catherine Academy. There is a spring and winter uniform as well as PE uniform. Lands' End offers several discounts throughout the year to make their uniforms even more affordable.



**Mother Catherine Academy**  
**Extended Day Care Registration**  
**2016-2017**

Child(ren) Attending Extended Day Program

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check which of the following your child(ren) will be attending:

- Before Care
- After Care
- Both Before and After Care

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_ Father's cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Father's work # \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's work # \_\_\_\_\_

People allowed to pick up my child(ren). Please include phone number where they can be reached.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A non-refundable fee of \$25 for one child or \$35 per family must accompany this registration. Full and part-time families are charged whether they use the Extended Day Care for program for the full week or not.

By signing below I authorize Mother Catherine Academy to release a copy of the Emergency Release Form and any patient medical information/medication on my child(ren) to the Extended Day Care personnel. Also, by signing below, I have read, understood, and accepted the Extended Day Care Program Rates and Policies.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_