



**“Be Who God Created
You to Be and You will
Set the World on Fire.”**
—St. Catherine of Siena





WHY CO-ED EDUCATION?

At SCS, we believe a coeducational environment will push your student to become who God created them to be, and in turn grant them an enjoyable and rewarding middle school experience! Here are a few reasons why we think your student will be incredibly successful at St. Catherine of Siena Middle School:

The Real World is Co-Ed

- Students gain real life experiences
- Students prepare for the future where they'll interact with both genders
- Students develop social characteristics like respect, understanding and teamwork that naturally teach students how to interact with everyone

Student Diversity

- Allows students to learn from each other's differences and capitalize on their similarities
- De-emphasizes gender-specific stereotypes which enable students to explore a more diverse range of learning opportunities
- Allows boys and girls to learn to respect one another and cooperate as equals
- Allows teachers to attend to students' individual learning needs, rather than assuming that "all boys" or "all girls" have the same interests or learning patterns



Co-Ed Extracurricular Activities

- Give students the opportunity to join teams and clubs with their co-ed peers
- Allow boys and girls to bond over similar interests, compete together, and form long-lasting friendships
- Encourage students to share a camaraderie together through co-ed groups like Band, Choir and Robotics or co-ed team sports like Soccer or Cross Country

Sources: American Psychological Association, Noodle

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MIDDLE SCHOOL is a dynamic time in a student's life – so much change and opportunity – not just academically, but socially and spiritually as well. No longer little kids, not yet high schoolers, middle school students can sometimes feel forgotten - their achievements and interests under-celebrated.

At SCS, we have worked hard to create an environment designed to cultivate and celebrate the gifts God has given to each middle school student. Our program strives to shape the hearts, minds and souls of our 5th – 7th boys and girls as they become stewards of their own growth.

Choosing middle school at SCS means holding on to the safety and security of a familiar, nurturing place while having the opportunity to explore new interests and passions in a coeducational environment. Our goal is to mentor students to become independent thinkers who can advocate not only for themselves, but for others as they pursue excellence.



*True to the teachings of St. Catherine of Siena,
Middle School at SCS inspires students to explore who God
created them to be, so they can set the world on fire!*

A ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA GRADUATE IS

Reflective
Studious
Interested
Communicative
Service Oriented
A Leader
Collaborative
Proactive



A Problem Solver
A Critical Thinker
Devoted to Faith Formation
Empathetic
Compassionate
A Peacemaker
Rooted in Faith

SCS Middle School Highlights

Middle School Academics

Rigorous Academic Curriculum:

English/Language Arts
Reading
Math
Science
Social Studies
Religion
Spanish
P.E.

5th-7th Grade Honors

Latin offered to Honors Students
(only 6th and 7th Graders)

Academic Awards Night

Weekly Enrichment Classes:

Art
Computer

Middle School Counselor

1:1 technology

Chromebooks for all
5th-7th graders

Protected WiFi Access

SmartBoards in all classes

High School first choice acceptance

Above Average Test Scores

Top 10 School in Archdiocese of
New Orleans for last 3 years
Total of 83 Catholic Schools in
Archdiocese of New Orleans

Middle School Spiritual Experience

2 priests on campus

Daily Religious Education

Begin & end class in prayer

Middle School class retreats

Middle School Junior CYO

Student-led weekly masses

Lectors, altar servers, cantors, ushers

Christian Leadership Club

Service Project Leadership

Feeding the homeless: 7th grade
Feeding the hungry: 6th grade
November Thanksgiving Food Drive
St. Michael's Bead Drive
Coats for Kids
Clothe A Child
Pennies for Patients

Middle School Culture & Student Experience

Middle School Wing on 2nd Floor of Jr. Building

Lockers in Middle School Hall

Dynamic Switching Groups throughout day

Competitive intramurals

Weekly Concessions at recess

Extracurricular:

Student Council
Homeroom reps: 5th-7th grade
Executive Board: 7th grade
Ambassadors: 5th-7th grade
Expanded Athletics program:
BOYS' SPORTS:
Baseball, Basketball, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Tennis
GIRLS' SPORTS:
Basketball, Cheerleaders, Gatoresses, Softball, Tennis, Volleyball
Co-Ed SPORTS:
Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Swimming
Athletic Awards Night

NEW SCS Gator Field

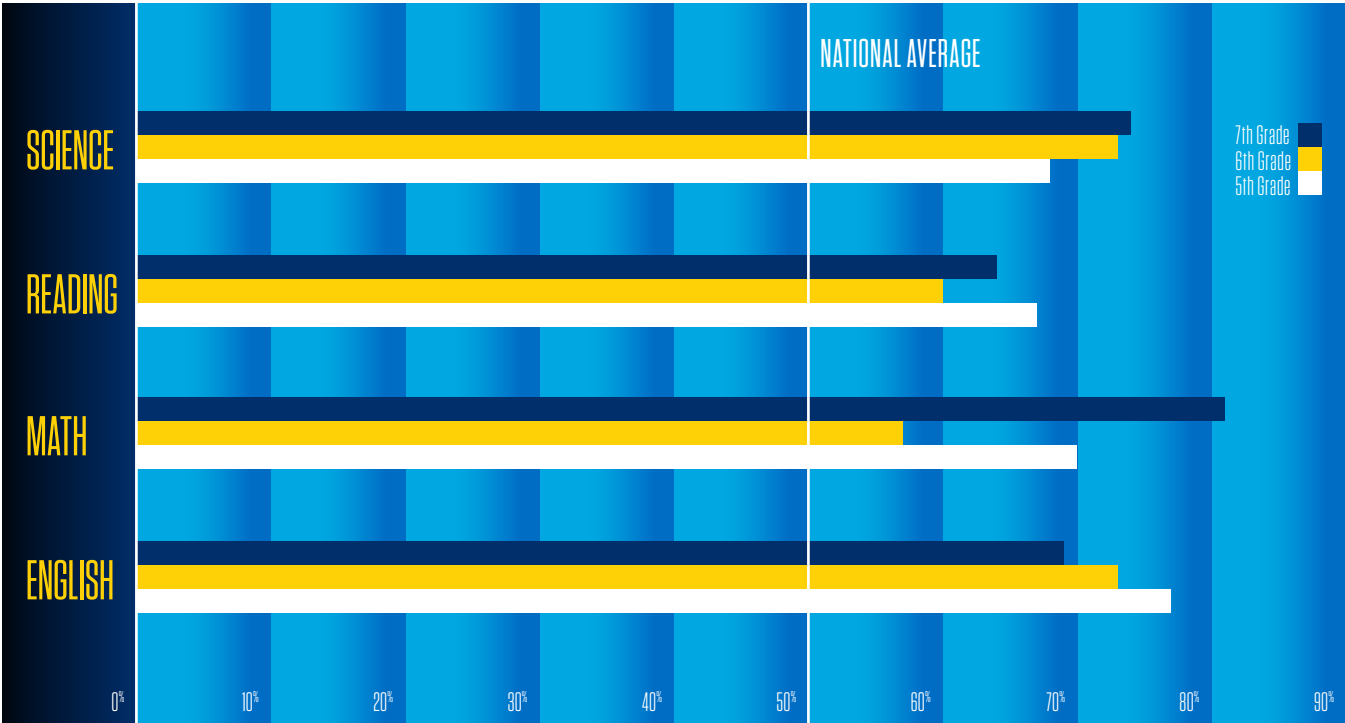
Band
Choir
Quiz Bowl
Robotics Club
Academic Games
Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts

Guest Motivational Speakers & Assemblies

Enrichment Day
Drug Prevention
Social Media Awareness
Cyberbullying Awareness



St. Catherine of Siena School ACT Aspire Scores

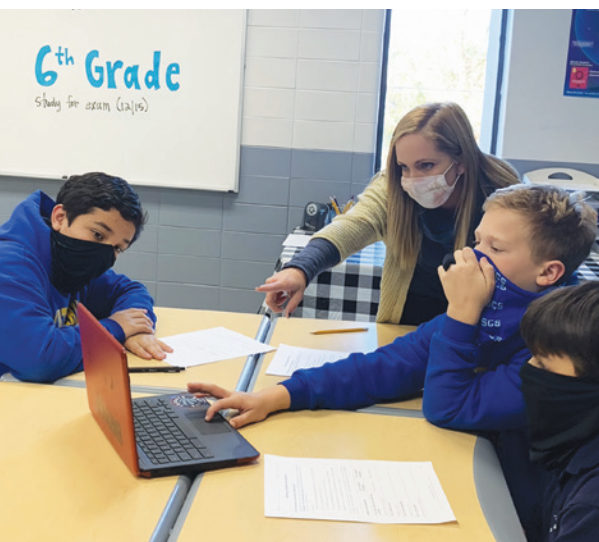


The ACT scores outlined here are from Spring 2021 after not having taken the ACT Aspire test since spring of 2019.



Why SCS for Middle School?

Middle school marks the beginning of a confusing time for “tweens.” They are undergoing a variety of biological, psychological, spiritual, and social changes, all at once. The complexity of this age group has prompted educators to explore which school environment nurtures these students best and sets them up for future success. The research suggests that keeping students in K-7 schools benefits them not only academically, but emotionally and socially, as well.



Academic Strength

Students who remain in K-7 Schools:

- Are more confident in academics than their Middle School (grades 5-8) peers
- Have high academic achievement in terms of grade point averages and standardized test scores, especially in math

Students who leave K-7 Schools for Middle School often:

- Experience a “sharp drop” in achievement
- “Lose ground” in both reading and math

Emotional Stability

K-7 Elementary Schools:

- Create a stronger sense of community associated with faculty knowing students from a young age and cross-grade student collaboration
- Alleviate unnecessary transition which can be particularly rough given the age and emotional development of the students
- “Are in a better position (than middle schools) to remind us all, that these students are still children and should be treated as such.”
- Provide students with a feeling of confidence and security which is increasingly important since evidence indicates that “the seeds that produce high school failure are sown in grades 5-8.”
- Employ teachers who are “used to teaching, planning together and working with the same group of students and knowing them as individuals.”



Social Confidence

Students in K-7 Schools:

- “Tend to feel safer, so there is less of a *Lord of the Flies* environment at a critical stage when they are navigating through social currents.”
- Participate more in extracurricular activities
- Demonstrate greater leadership skills and take on leadership roles while “the little kids have someone to look up to.”
- Are less likely to be bullied due to the “intimacy of the K-8 environment” and the delay of a transition until students were more mature

Sources: *Attending a Middle vs. a K-8 School Matters for Student Outcomes* - NYU Study, Oct 2017; *Do Middle Schools Make Sense?* - Harvard Graduate School of Education, Fall 2012; *The Middle School Plunge*, Education Next, Spring 2012; *Mayhem in the Middle: Why We Should Shift to K-8*, Educational Leadership, April 2006; National Center for Education Statics; *Revival of K-8 School*, AASA - The School's Superintendents Association