



# **ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

*WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET*

6600 Kawanee Ave.

Metairie, LA 70003

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[www.stphilipneri.org](http://www.stphilipneri.org)

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## **HIGH ABILITY PROGRAM INFORMATION**

SPN Community,

For a number of years, St. Philip Neri Catholic School has offered placement into “high ability” sections of each grade level for students who are identified as needing additional challenge and rigor above and beyond our standard program of study. In each grade level, these students are placed into sections that offer “high ability” Reading, English, and Math classes. The Religion, Science, and Social Studies classes taught throughout our school are not “high ability” offerings, rather, these courses build on the standards, benchmarks, and expectations that introduce the students to key skills and concepts while giving them ample opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding through a variety of means.

The “high ability” sections offered by our school begin in Kindergarten and proceed through Seventh Grade. In the past, the school has used report card grades, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendations based on experience and observational data to determine student placement. In grades K-4, there are three sections of students: 1 “high ability” class and 2 classes of mixed ability students. During most school years, in Middle School, there are two sections of students: 1 “high ability” class and 1 mixed ability class. The school does not completely level our classes (i.e. we do not have a “high” class, “middle” class, and “low” class). Each school year, all students are reevaluated according to the aforementioned criteria to determine the best placement for each student.

## **HIGH ABILITY CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS**

- St. Philip Neri School will continue to offer “high ability” sections in grades K-7.
- Selection criteria for “high ability” placement:
  - Score on placement test
  - Report card grades from the most previous school year (progress reports in PK4)
    - ***Entering the “high ability” program after being placed in an academic section during the previous school year:***
      - Student may not have more than 1 “C” on report card, and not as a final grade
      - A grade of “D” anywhere on the report card disqualifies the student
    - ***Continuing in the “high ability” program after being placed in “high ability” during the previous school year:***
      - Student may not have more than 2 grades of “C” on report card, and not as a final grade
      - A grade of “D” anywhere on the report card disqualifies the student
  - Standardized test scores (NWEA MAP where applicable and Terranova NEXT)
  - Teacher recommendations
  - Conduct considerations
  - Parent consultation for students who will be offered “high ability” placement
- ***Scheduling in Grades 4-7:***
  - Students can be placed more specifically based on academic need.
  - Students will be ability grouped for English, Reading, and Math.
  - There will be mixing of students among homerooms for Science, Social Studies, and Religion
  - Specific academic placement in Reading, English, and Math will allow for more mixing of students among homerooms for Science, Social Studies, and Religion

Thank you for continuing to allow us to partner with you in the education and development of your children.

In Christ,

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