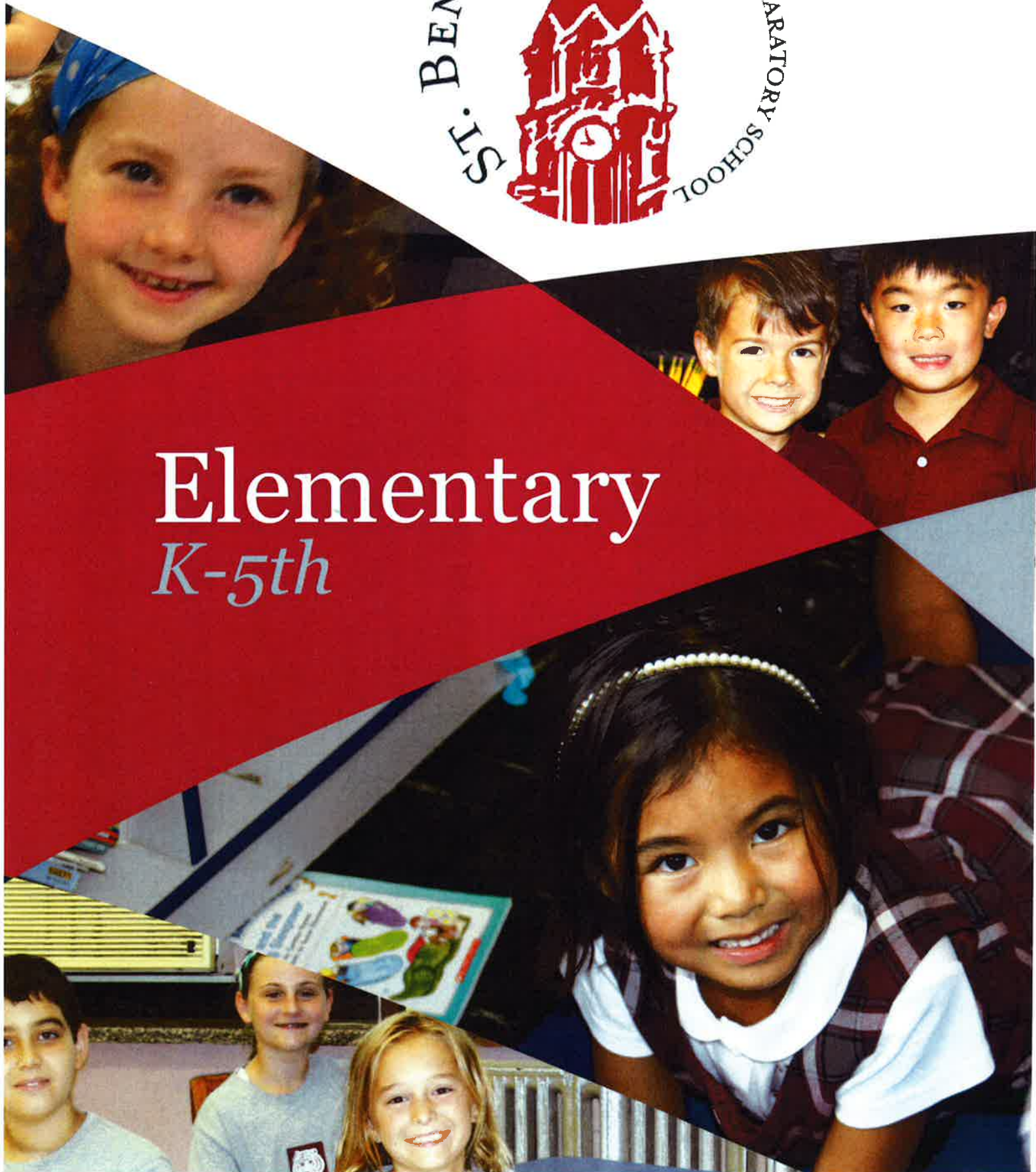




# Elementary

*K-5th*





September 2015

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Thank you for your interest in St. Benedict Preparatory School (SBPS). Since 1902, SBPS has provided top-quality, faith-based education by pairing exceptional academic instruction with traditional Catholic teachings.

St. Benedict Prep has a strong commitment to offering outstanding faith-based education and long-term community building in the North Center area. Our enrollment has steadily increased in the last five years. Today, over 670 students attend SBPS preschool through grade 5. The expansion of our student body has enriched our school community and strengthened the educational experience.

Within this packet you will find information on:

- St. Benedict Prep's history, philosophy, and mission.
- Our innovative approach to curriculum in early childhood, primary, and intermediate grades.
- Assessment & Portfolio information.
- Extracurricular student and family activities.
- Tuition, Fees, and Extended Care Options.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet.

I encourage you to schedule a school tour to see the classrooms and meet our teachers. To arrange a visit or to have any additional questions answered, please contact me at [jgallagher@stbenedict.com](mailto:jgallagher@stbenedict.com) or (773) 509-3814.

Once again, thank you for your interest in St Benedict Preparatory School. We are proud of our Catholic educational heritage and sincerely look forward to welcoming you into our community.

Best wishes,

*Janet E. Gallagher*

Director of Admissions Grades K-5

*Established in 1902 by a group of German immigrants seeking a place of Catholic worship and education, St. Benedict originally served 90 parish families in a rural area. Today, the North Center neighborhood is a thriving urban community and St. Benedict Parish & School remains at its center, serving over 2,900 parish families.*

## **St. Benedict Preparatory School Mission**

The times may have changed, but the philosophy upon which St. Benedict Prep was founded endures.

At St. Benedict Preparatory School (SBPS) we:

- ***Excel*** in educating the whole individual in the Catholic tradition by providing a challenging curriculum that provides for student's individual needs and special talents;
- ***Challenge*** students to develop their God-given talents by encouraging personal growth and spiritual formation;
- ***Create*** a Christian community by sharing our gifts, talents, and abilities;
- ***Honor*** the gifts and diversity of the community by instilling a commitment to a multicultural community and a spirit of Christian stewardship;
- ***Serve*** the Lord and each other in an ever-changing world by learning and living the teachings of the Roman Catholic faith.

At SBPS, we prepare our students both academically and spiritually for a lifetime of learning. This complete approach to education allows our students to grow with confidence, character, and a strong moral compass.

## **An Integral Part of the Christian Community**

St. Benedict Preparatory School holds the distinction of being the only co-educational Pre-K through 12th grade school in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Our families are committed to partnering with SBPS to provide the educational and spiritual needs of all of our students. In addition, the St. Benedict parish community is also active in our student's lives through parish ministries, activities, and sacramental preparation. Just as it has for more than a century, SBPS remains a cornerstone in the North Center community. As a vibrant part of the community SBPS continues the tradition of serving generations of students. We welcome your family to join us in our tradition of faith-based education.



# An Innovative Approach to Curriculum

*At St. Benedict Preparatory School (SBPS) we focus on traditional core subjects, faith formation, and enrichment. By utilizing the most current educational philosophies and the latest technologies, we ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn and grow. This approach gives every student the chance to excel – regardless of the learner's level.*

*Having preschool through 12th grade within the same system is one the many advantages of a SBPS education. This unique approach provides an invaluable opportunity to build upon mastery of standards from one year to the next. This continuity and community building with our students helps to build a solid foundation for educational growth.*

## Early Childhood: *Preschool and Kindergarten*



During these formative years, we focus on developmentally appropriate activities for our young students. In Preschool, a nurturing and fun environment allows for not only supervised play, but content-based learning integral to the development of pre-literacy and pre-math skills. Kindergarten literacy and math skills are built upon using Everyday Math and Reading Mastery. Everyday Math teaches application of math skills in real world situations. Reading Mastery develops a strong phonics foundation and allows students to begin reading at their own level. Center-based activities allow hands-on experiences for students to learn at their own pace. This type of learning fosters the development of social, fine, and gross motor skills.

## Primary Grades: *1st and 2nd*



In the primary grades, preschool pre-literacy and pre-math skills are built upon. Everyday Math, a comprehensive math curriculum developed by the University of Chicago, teaches application of math skills in real world situations. Students learn through hands-on activities, games, real-life problem solving, school-family cooperation, and appropriate use of technology. Guided Reading in first and second grades develops reading strategies and literacy skills with an emphasis on decoding, fluency, and comprehension. Through teacher support, students develop the skills to become independent readers. Language Arts, Religion, Science, and Social Studies complete the curriculum focus.

## Intermediate Grades: *3rd, 4th, and 5th*



Everyday Math continues in the intermediate grades, as students continue to learn the underlying principles of math and how to apply them. The Guided Reading curriculum remains a critical component of learning as students begin reading at personalized levels. In addition, Reader's Workshop allows students to write about their reading and receive individual feedback from their teacher. In Language Arts, students use critical thinking, grammar skills, and the writing process to create various types of writing pieces. Religion, Science, and Social Studies curriculum allows students to study individual topics more in-depth. Research and presentation skills are developed through special projects and assignments.

## Middle School Grades: *6th, 7th, and 8th*



Technology is a key tool used in meeting the needs of Middle School (MS) students. MS students use laptop or tablet computers and core curriculum subjects are integrated through the use of this Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program. Students working on a science fair project can create graphs in Math, write a research paper in English, and develop scientific theories in Science and Social Studies. Reading and Writing skills are integrated through novel and literature study. Students who

excel in Math and English can enroll in high school level courses at St. Benedict College Prep High School. In addition, middle school students are offered high school level electives in Art, Spanish, Mandarin, Drama, and Chorus.

## Preschool – Grade 5 *Highlights*

*Other curriculum highlights offered Preschool through Grade 5 include:*

- Spanish
- Art, Music, and Computer
- Physical Education
- Daily recess in our secured courtyard
- Portfolio Assessment based on national standards

## Faith Development

At every level, SBPS students are taught religious principles that deepen and evolve as the student matures. Whether it's learning about prayer in preschool, preparing for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in second grade, being a "Prayer Buddy" working with younger students on faith-based projects in the intermediate grades, or engaging in Christian leadership and Confirmation preparation in secondary school, SBPS integrates religious teachings throughout the curriculum.



## Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessment

St. Benedict Preparatory School (SBPS) administers the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessment created by the Northwest Evaluation Association. Assessments in reading, language usage, and math reveal precisely which academic skills and concepts a student has acquired and what they are ready to learn. MAP assessments compare and predict student achievement and growth over time.

The computer-based assessment creates a personalized experience by adapting to individual students instructional level. This means that the assessment becomes more difficult the more questions students answer correctly. When students answer a question incorrectly, the computerized assessment adjusts to the level of difficulty. In this way, students create an assessment specifically for his or her learning level.

### MAP assessment results are used:

- by teachers to personalize instruction *to maximize every student's academic growth.*
- by administration *to track the achievement and growth of every student and classroom.*
- by teachers and administration *to evaluate the success of programs and curriculum.*

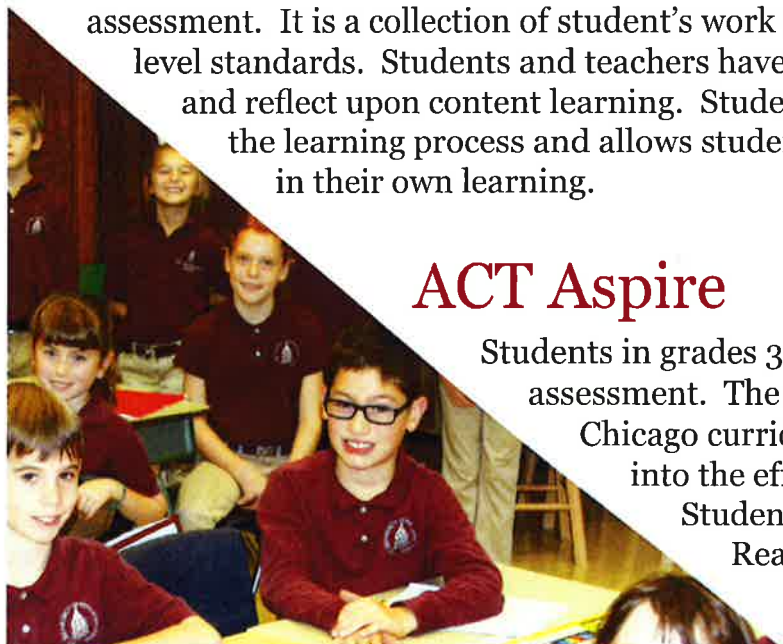
All students in 1st through 12th grade are administered the MAP assessment 2-3 times per year. Kindergarten students are administered the MAP assessment 2 times per year. Assessments will not be used to determine overall student performance. It is expected that there will be areas of development, readiness, and reinforcement. The results do not depict mastery or suggest appropriate grade-level proficiency.

## Portfolio Assessment

Portfolio Assessment is used in the preschool and elementary school as another tool in student assessment. It is a collection of student's work that shows growth and mastery toward grade level standards. Students and teachers have the opportunity to document, review, analyze, and reflect upon content learning. Student involvement in portfolio development enhances the learning process and allows students to become more involved in their own learning.

## ACT Aspire

Students in grades 3-10 are administered the ACT Aspire standardized assessment. The Aspire test is aligned with new Archdiocese of Chicago curriculum standards and is designed to provide insights into the effectiveness of curriculum and student achievement. Students complete tests in 5 key areas: English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing.



# Student & Family Activities

## Curricular

Awards Day  
Before & After School Care  
Everyday Math Night  
Field Trips  
Portfolio Night  
Red Ribbon Drug Awareness Week  
Science Fair/Invention Convention  
Student Council

## Clubs

American Girl Club  
Art Club  
Bakugan/Pokeman Club  
Boy Scouts  
Drama Club  
Girls On The Run  
Girl Scouts  
Chess Wizards Chess Club  
Jewelry Making Club  
Lego Club  
Little Chefs Club  
Little Scientist Club  
Mad Science  
Spanish Club  
Super Strategies Test Prep Club

## Athletics

Basketball  
Baseball  
Bitty Basketball  
Bitty T-Ball  
Cheerleading  
Cross Country  
Softball  
Summer Camp  
Summer Sports Camp  
Volleyball

## Music & Dance

Band Lessons  
Children's Choir  
Dance Classes  
Piano Lessons  
Violin Lessons

## Faith Activities

Altar Servers  
Advent & Lent Liturgies  
Advent Food Drive  
Catholic Schools Week  
Confirmation Preparation  
Family Mass  
First Holy Communion Preparation  
First Reconciliation Preparation  
Grandparent's Day Liturgy  
Living Rosary  
Living Stations of the Cross  
Weekly Mass Attendance Grades 1-12  
Grade Level-Led Prayer Services

## Family Activities

Christmas Musical  
Ice Cream Social  
Father/Daughter Dance  
Mother/Son Dance  
Mother/Son Bowling  
Open Gym  
Spaghetti Dinner  
Talent Show

## Volunteer Activities\*

Class Activity & Event Planning  
Coaching  
Field Trip Chaperones  
Home & School Association (HSA)  
Lunchroom/Recess Monitors  
Room Representatives  
SBPS Advisory Board  
SBPS Athletic Association  
Special Class Presentations

*\*All volunteers must be VIRTUS trained*

