



Information Packet

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Thank you for expressing an interest in Saint Ferdinand Catholic School.

We are a kindergarten through eighth grade Catholic elementary school in the Archdiocese of Saint Louis. Our school philosophy statement flows from the educational documents issued by the Church. We pride ourselves on being rooted in our Catholic faith and in our striving to foster in our students a love and connectedness to the Church which Jesus began.

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne originally established our school as a free school for boys and girls and since then, we have enjoyed a rich tradition of fostering Gospel values while focusing on the pursuit of educational excellence. In our recent history, we merged with the school community at Saint Martin de Porres and this experience has enriched us greatly.

Enrollment in our school is currently 250 students. The majority of our student population is from within the boundaries of either Saint Ferdinand or Saint Martin de Porres parish. Those outside one of our parishes are from the North County area at large. Our average class size is about 25 students with a maximum class size of 30 students. We have a staff of ten full-time homeroom teachers and two full-time instructional aides. We also have a full-time specialty teacher who teaches music and computer and two part-time specialty teachers who teach physical education and art. We are also blessed to have the services of a full-time resource teacher who seeks to minister to the children with special needs.

In addition to our full-time school, we are also proud of our preschool program. We have sessions serving three and four year olds. We have the ability to offer two sessions to each age group, one operating in the morning and another in the afternoon depending upon enrollment.

It is my hope that you find the information included with this letter to be beneficial as you discern all that is involved in making decisions regarding your child's education. I encourage you to spend time in prayer asking for God's loving presence to grace you and your family as you approach this decision.

If you would like further information regarding Saint Ferdinand Catholic School or Preschool, please feel free to contact me.

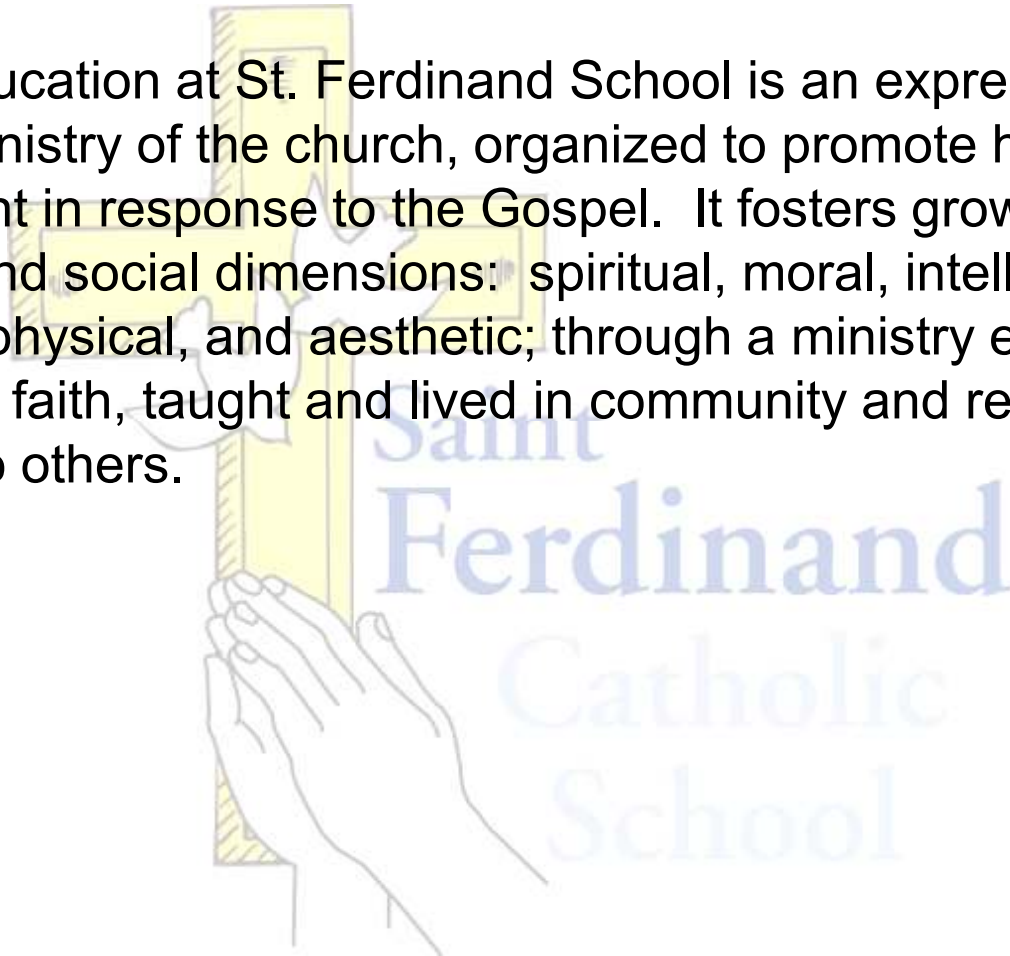
Sincerely,

Miss Gearon

Principal

Philosophy

Catholic education at St. Ferdinand School is an expression of the teaching ministry of the church, organized to promote human development in response to the Gospel. It fosters growth in all individual and social dimensions: spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional, physical, and aesthetic; through a ministry embracing a message of faith, taught and lived in community and reaching out in service to others.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

†Live a life rooted in the Gospel values as reflected in: respect for life in all its forms, moral choices, and stewardship;

†Apply concepts and skills in the pursuit of knowledge while being a life-long learner;

†Witness self-discipline and responsibility to the community by working for peace and social justice while developing a consciousness for those in need;

†Ethically use technology as a tool in everyday life;

†Be an independent thinker, able to communicate effectively through oral and written expression;

†Possess the ability to work cooperatively with others while applying critical thinking and reasoning skills;

†Have an appreciation for a working knowledge of Catholic doctrine, academic skills, and fine arts.

ADMISSION

Admission to Saint Ferdinand Catholic School is open to students of any race, religion, color, national and ethnic origin. Priority is given to students who have brothers and sisters enrolled in the school.

Families wishing to enroll a child in Saint Ferdinand Catholic School must demonstrate to the Administration (Pastor/Principal) a desire for this special kind of school where Catholic teaching and moral formation are an integral part of the school.

Families wishing to enroll a child in Saint Ferdinand Catholic School who has, at any time, been evaluated and/or received education services for:

- a learning disability
- behavioral disorder
- speech therapy
- physical therapy
- occupational therapy
- counseling

must provide the evaluation and individual educational plan for review by Saint Ferdinand Catholic School prior to enrolling.

In the event that the enrollment for a class has reached the maximum number of students, students will be placed on a waiting list.

CURRICULUM

Core Curriculum consists of seven subjects: Religion, Reading, Mathematics, English, Social Studies, Science, and Spelling

Additional Subjects include: Computers, Music, Physical Education, Art, Spanish and Handwriting

A Description of the Curriculum:

•Religion:

K – 8

○ Understanding Christian beliefs, living out those beliefs through the study of Doctrine, Scripture, and Liturgical Celebrations are stressed. Using mission projects and school wide themes help students develop Christian attitudes and strengthen empathy for all people.

- Grade 2: Reconciliation and Eucharist Preparation
- Grade 8: Confirmation Preparation
- Grades 1-8: Eucharistic Celebrations two times per week (Kindergarten attends every all school liturgy)
- Grades 2-8: Penance Services
- Grades K-8: May Crowning
- Grades K-8: Monthly Mission Projects

CURRICULUM (continued)

•Reading:

K – 8

○ Formal reading program stresses success in reading as students become independent readers. Elements include development of comprehension, phonetic, vocabulary, and strategy skills. Students read high-interest, multilevel literature in a variety of genre.

- Grade K: Text: *Beginning to Read*
- Grades 1-6: Text: *Treasures*
- Grades 6-8: Text: *Language of Literature*
- Grades 1-4: Accelerated Reader Program (optional for grades 5 – 8)
- Grades K-8: Weekly School Library Visits
- Grades K-8: Monthly Bookmobile Visits
- Grades K-3: Phonetic Skill Development

•Mathematics:

K – 8

○ Stresses development of strong quantitative-reasoning skills, and application of skills in areas of computation, problem-solving, critical thinking, estimation, measurement/time, geometry, and algebra.

- Grades K-6: Text: *Progress in Mathematics*
- Grade 7: Pre-Algebra
- Grade 8: Algebra

CURRICULUM (continued)

•**English:**

K – 8

○Curriculum stresses development of written and oral communication skills through the use of proper grammar, usage, mechanics, and expression. Students are provided with opportunities for application of communication skills.

•**Social Studies:**

K – 8

○Stresses the development of literate citizens with the knowledge, skills, and civic values needed to become active, reflective participants in the local and world community. Past, present, and future people, ideas, and events are discussed and analyzed to build critical thinking, problem solving, and research skills.

- Grades K-1: Community/United States/Current Events
- Grades 2-4: General Social Studies
- Grade 5: American History
- Grade 6: World History
- Grades 7-8: American History
- Grades K-8: Map Skills
- Grades 4-8: National Geographic Society Geography Bee

CURRICULUM (continued)

•Science:

K – 8

○A combination of Earth, Life, Physical, and Environmental Science. Critical thinking and problem solving skills are developed through “hands-on” experiments and cooperative learning experiences.

- Grade K: Study of the physical environment
- Grades 1-6: Scott Foresman Science
- Grades 7-8: Prentice-Hall Discovery Science

•Spelling:

K – 8

○Stresses words students need to know for their writing; connects to content areas; and spelling concepts transfer to new words encountered later.

- Grade K: Word lists
- Grades 1-6: Incorporated into the *Treasures* Reading Program
- Grades 7-8: Vocabulary and Spelling
- Grades 3-8: *Saint Louis Post-Dispatch* Spelling Bee

•Computer:

K – 8

○Formal technology program relates to core subject areas. Instruction in keyboarding. Windows Programs, Internet safety and research, PowerPoint presentations and Media literacy.

- Attend lab once a week with Technology Teacher
- Attend lab once a week with homeroom teacher

CURRICULUM (continued)

•Handwriting: K – 5

○ Formal instruction, practice, and review of manuscript and cursive letters and numbers.

- Grades K-2: Manuscript writing
- Grades 2-5: Cursive Writing
- Grades 4-8: Cursive writing is required

•Music: K – 8

○ Formal program of instruction, application, performance with music teacher. Students attend once a week.

- Grades 3-5: Instruction on Recorders
- Grades K-8: Participation in Archdiocesan Music Festival
- Grades K-8: Participation in Christmas/Spring Performances

•Physical Education: K – 8

○ Formal program of instruction, skill-building, physical fitness, teamwork, sportsmanship, and Catholic values. Activities are geared to the success and self-esteem of each student.

- Grades K-8: Attend once a week
- Grades K-8: Field Day
- Grades 1-8: President's Physical Fitness Program

CURRICULUM (continued)

- **Art:** K – 8
 - Formal instruction by art teacher once a week
 - Participation in the Catholic Schools Week Art Show
- **Spanish:** K - 8
 - Formal instruction by Spanish teacher once a week

Enrichment Programs:

- Vocations Week
- Monthly Mission Projects
- Mission Carnival
- Safety/Emergency Instruction
- Outdoor Education Experience—Camp Wyman—Grade 6
- Red Ribbon Week
- Multi-grade Team Activities
- Guest Speakers
- Curriculum-Related Field Trips
- Elective Classes—Grades 5 - 8

CURRICULUM (continued)

Student Recognition Programs:

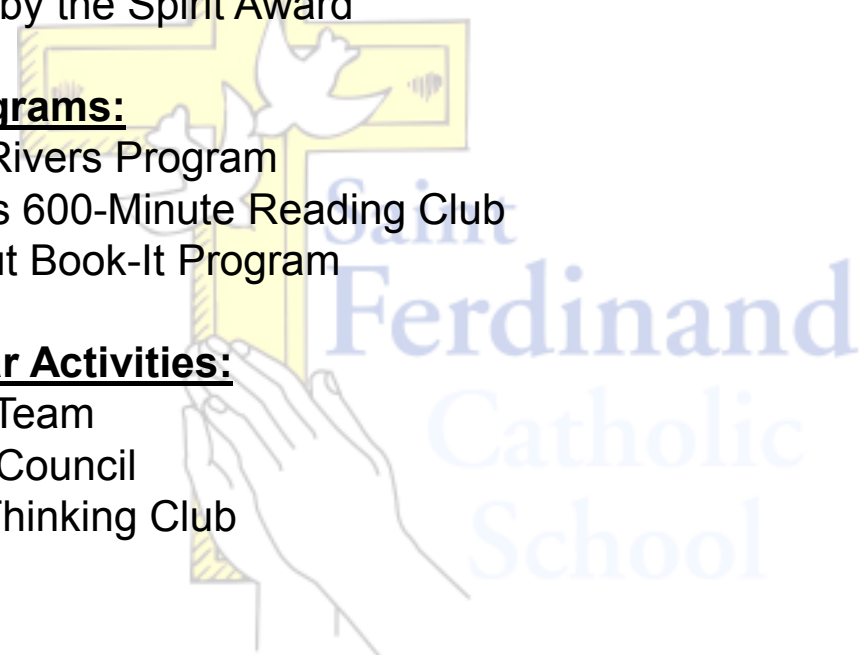
- oHonor Roll in Grades 4 – 8
- oStudent of the Week Program
- oInspired by the Spirit Award

Incentive Programs:

- oRaging Rivers Program
- oSix Flags 600-Minute Reading Club
- oPizza Hut Book-It Program

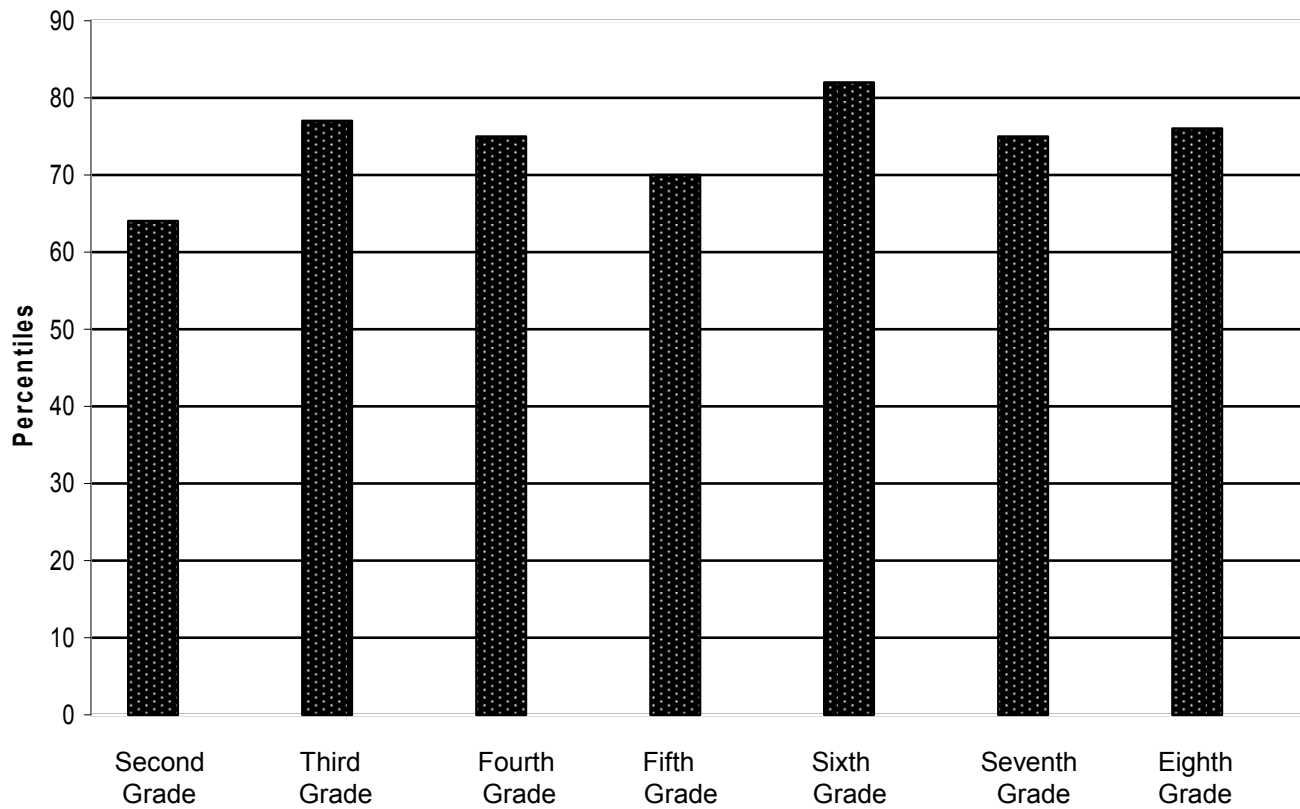
Extracurricular Activities:

- oSpeech Team
- oStudent Council
- oCritical Thinking Club



STANDARDIZED TESTING RESULTS

CORE TOTALS



STANDARDIZED TESTING RESULTS

(continued)

The faculty uses Standardized testing results in the following manner:

- † to assess student progress
- † to assist in determining individual strengths and areas of concern
- † to focus our efforts in providing instructional support to meet individual needs
- † to evaluate the effectiveness of our curriculum
- † to guide our ongoing analysis and development of our stated curriculum

We are very proud of our students' success as they progress through the program at Saint Ferdinand Catholic School. Our results on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills indicate that our students consistently perform well above the 50th percentile, which is the national average.

DRESS CODE

UNIFORMS

The purpose of a dress code, as with all school policies, is to create a learning climate in the school, which will foster self-esteem, self-discipline, and a sense of responsibility in each student. A dress code also gives a school a sense of identity and thereby promotes school pride as well as personal pride.

No dress code can possibly cover all eventualities or possibilities. It should be understood that the Administration ultimately decides what is acceptable and what is not acceptable.

Girls' Uniform:

Jumper - Blue plaid. Kindergarten through 5th grade. Length for jumper -- no shorter than 1" above kneecap.

Skirt - Blue plaid. 6th, 7th and 8th grade ONLY. Length for skirt--no shorter than kneecap.

Blouses – White, plain (no logos) – Peter Pan or pointed collar, white knit shirts, long or short sleeved, white long-sleeved turtlenecks. Undershirts must be white – no picture t-shirts.

Slacks – Navy blue uniform slacks with belt loops. Belts (brown or black) are required.

Belt - A belt is mandatory with any pants or shorts that have belt loops. The belt must be solid black, brown, or navy blue.

Socks - Socks must be plain white unless knee socks are worn, knee socks can be white or navy. All socks must be visible above shoe and cover ankle bone and soccer socks are not acceptable. If high top shoes are worn, the sock must be visible above the shoe.

DRESS CODE (continued)

Shoes - Tennis shoe or appropriate school shoe daily. Please refer to the following chart for all possible uniform color combinations:

Primary portion of shoe	Trim and Logos	Laces
Black	any color	black
Brown	any color	brown
Blue	any color	blue or white
Gray	any color	gray or white
Silver	any color	silver or white
White	any color	White

Shoes should not have a heel, wheels, characterizations, etc. and the primary portion should only be one color. Over-the-foot boots may be worn during the school day only if there is snow on the ground and your child is wearing the uniform slacks. Over the shoe-boots must be removed during the school day. Shoes that light up, or backless tennis shoes are unacceptable. Sandals or any other type of open shoe such as slides, clogs, etc. may not be worn.

DRESS CODE (continued)

Sweaters – Navy blue cardigan, v-neck or crew neck pullover (no logos)

Sweatshirts – Navy blue uniform sweatshirt with logo only. Can be purchased at Gaffneys.

Gym Uniform - A navy blue nylon knit gym short with the St. Ferdinand logo printed in white is to be worn by all girls in grades 1 through 8 for gym class, along with the uniform blouse/shirt. This uniform gym short is to be purchased at Fischer's Parochial. Gym socks should be basic white.

Tights/Leggings - Kindergarten through 8th grade may wear navy blue or white tights. These may not be worn on P.E. days. Solid navy blue leggings may be worn during the school day in grades K-4, through the winter months of November to March.

Jewelry – One pair of small earrings are permitted. No large earrings, long dangling earrings, or large hoop earrings are permitted. No necklaces or bracelets are to be worn with the school uniform. Only one watch and one ring may be worn. No tattoos are allowed. A simple religious medal or cross on a chain may be worn if tucked inside uniform shirt/blouse.

Makeup - Girls are not permitted to wear makeup at school. No nail polish or artificial nails.

Hair - Faddish dying or bleaching of hair is not allowed. Faddish hair-styles are not allowed. No head scarves or bandannas. Ribbons, bows, etc, cannot extend below shirt collar.

Walking shorts – Navy blue uniform shorts with belt loops. Belt (brown, navy blue or black) required. May be worn from the 1st day of school until October 15, and from April 15 to last day of school. Uniform shorts may be worn to school Masses.

DRESS CODE (continued)

Boys' Uniform:

Pants - Dark navy blue uniform pants only with belt loops. Pants should fit properly and be worn as intended and/or designed to be worn. Cargo pants, etc. are not acceptable. Tears in pants should be repaired in a timely manner. Frayed pants are not acceptable.

Belt - A belt is mandatory with any pants or shorts that have belt loops. The belt must be solid black, brown, or navy blue.

Shirt – White, plain (no logos) – White knit shirts long or short sleeved, white long-sleeved turtlenecks. Shirts can be button down the front or Oxford style. Undershirts must be plain white – no picture t-shirts. **WHITE SHIRTS ONLY.**

Socks - Socks must be plain white or navy. All socks must be visible above shoe and cover ankle bone. No soccer socks when wearing uniform shorts. If high top shoes are worn, the sock must be visible above the shoe.

Sweaters – Navy blue cardigan, v-neck or crew neck pullover (no logos).

Sweatshirts – Navy blue uniform sweatshirt with logo only. Can be purchased at Gaffneys.

DRESS CODE (continued)

Shoes - Tennis shoe or appropriate school shoe daily. Please refer to the following chart for all possible uniform color combinations:

Primary portion of shoe	Trim and Logos	Laces
Black	any color	black
Brown	any color	brown
Blue	any color	blue or white
Gray	any color	gray or white
Silver	any color	silver or white
White	any color	White

Shoes should not have a heel, wheels, characterizations, etc. and the primary portion should only be one color. Over-the-foot boots may be worn during the school day only if there is snow on the ground and your child is wearing the uniform slacks. Over the shoe-boots must be removed during the school day. Shoes that light up, or backless tennis shoes are unacceptable. Sandals or any other type of open shoe such as slides, clogs, etc. may not be worn.

DRESS CODE (continued)

Gym Uniform - A navy blue nylon knit gym short with the St. Ferdinand logo printed in white is to be worn by all boys in grades 1 through 8 for gym class, along with the uniform shirt. This uniform gym short is to be purchased at Fischer's Parochial. White socks are required.

Walking Shorts – Navy blue uniform shorts with belt loops. Belts are required. May be worn from the 1st day of school until October 15, and from April 15 to the last day of school.

Jewelry - No earrings, necklaces, or bracelets of any kind are permitted. Only one watch and one ring may be worn. No tattoos are allowed. A simple religious medal or cross on a chain may be worn if tucked inside uniform shirt.

Boys' Hair - Neatly cut. Hair must not touch the shirt collar in back. It may not touch the eyebrows in front. Hair, including sideburns, must be neatly trimmed and may not extend below mid-ear. Faddish dyeing or bleaching of hair is not allowed. Faddish hair-styles are not allowed.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TUITION

Tuition fees for the 2009-2010 school year are:

	Parishioners	Non-Parishioners
a. Families with one child in full day Kindergarten – Gr. 8	\$3,888.00	\$4,300.00
b. Families with two children in Kindergarten – Gr. 8	\$4,944.00	\$5,433.00
c. Families with three or more children in Kindergarten - Gr. 8	\$6,000.00	\$6,571.00
d. Families with one child in half-day Kindergarten only	\$2,722.00	\$3,011.00

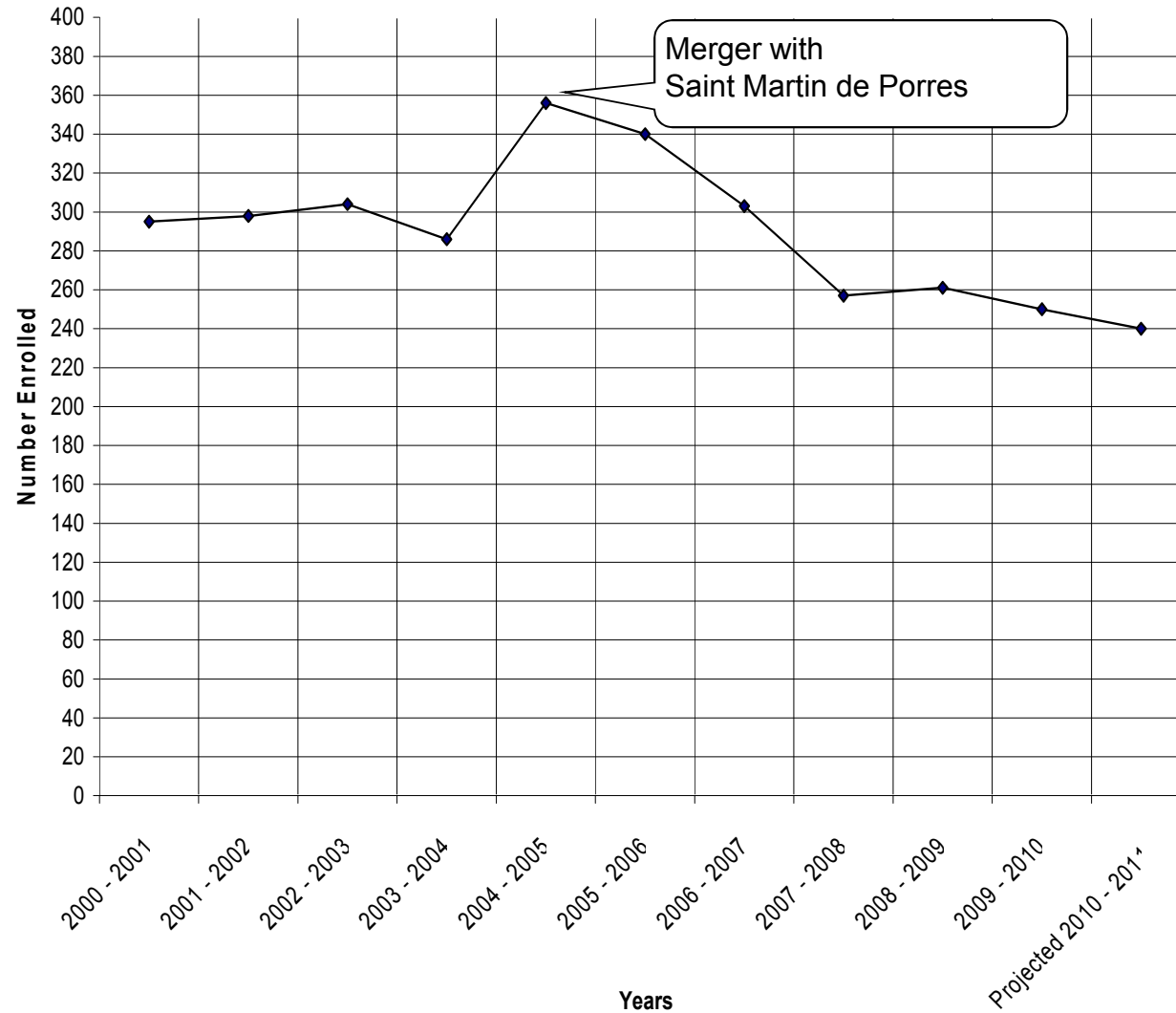
(This does not include Book Rental and Fees.)

There are three options available to families to pay tuition.

- † Option One: Full payment of tuition due in June of 2010. This payment is to be made directly to the school or rectory office.
- † Option Two: A two payment option with payments due in June 2010 and January 2011. These payments are made directly to the school or rectory office.
- † Option Three: Monthly payments with payments over a 12 month period beginning July, 2010. These payments are made through the Monthly Payment Tuition Management Plan. There is a \$30.00 annual fee charged for this service. The remaining Book Rental and Fees may be included in your monthly payments.

If additional help is needed in customizing the payment plan for the coming school year, please call the school office. Finance Committee members are available to help you.

ENROLLMENT TRENDS 2000 – CURRENT



GRADE LEVEL ENROLLMENT **2009 – 2010 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Grade Level	Girls	Boys	Total
Kindergarten	17	13	30
First Grade	14	14	28
Second Grade	11	9	20
Third Grade	9	13	22
Fourth Grade	15	13	28
Fifth Grade	9	16	25
Sixth Grade	15	11	26
Seventh Grade	29	17	46
Eighth Grade	16	9	25
Totals:	135	115	250

Please Contact Us

If you would like more information about our school or you would like to schedule a tour, please contact us at the following:

- School Phone: 314.921.2201
- Email: missgearon@stferdinandschool.org

