

# **FOCUS ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

As we begin the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, I have summarized an article that appeared in the Catholic Standard and Times, Philadelphia, in the August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 edition. The same information applies to all our Catholic Schools. Please consider enrolling your child in St. Mary's School this year. The most important lifetime gift you will ever give your child is a good *CATHOLIC EDUCATION*. Its benefits are out of this world – they are in the next. Thanks for reading this.

Sincerely,  
Fr. Curran

Upholding the Catholic identity in St. Mary's School is our first goal.

Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic School. The Catholic School finds its definition in the Gospel of Christ, taking root in the mind and lives of its faithful, leading them to be full and practicing members of the Church. Our school works hard at maintaining Academic Excellence and sustaining the mission of Catholic Education and the building up of the Church as the students take what they learn into the world. Students are taught to think critically and analytically in order to apply the knowledge they have learned to real world problems. All this is done from a Gospel-centered perspective. As full and practicing members of the Church, Catholic students, in collaboration with their parents, guardians and parish and school communities, will learn to live fully their Baptismal call in following Christ through frequent reception of the Sacraments, particularly Penance and Holy Communion.

As centers of Academic Excellence, Catholic Schools address not 3 R's but 5: Religion, Rigor, Relevance, Relationships and Reflection.

**RELIGION:** Religious instruction infuses Gospel values in a Christ centered-learning environment.

**RIGOR:** Promotes intellectual development through critical and analytical thinking, problem solving and effective communication.

**RELEVANCE:** Addresses real-world applications of learning supported by innovative technology.

**RELATIONSHIPS:** Positive relationships within the School Community fosters a collaborative, caring and supportive learning environment.

**REFLECTION:** Is a continuous academic and spiritual review by educators in all areas of the School program.

For more information, visit the website [www.catholicschools-phl.org](http://www.catholicschools-phl.org)