

The curriculum at St. Simon Parish School provides a dynamic program intended to educate the whole child in a supportive environment. The administration and faculty utilize a differentiated approach to teaching which addresses the many and varied ways in which students learn. **Academics include:**

- Religion
- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Spanish
- Art
- Music
- Technology
- Library Skills
- Physical Education
- Healthy Living

All students are taught leadership and communication skills through a variety of strategies including group projects and oral presentations. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in their student's education and can monitor the student's progress using SchoolOne, the on-line grading system.

### **A Variety of Ways to Learn**

Each kindergarten class has 1 full time teacher and 2 Instructional Assistants. During a typical day, the students are divided into 3 station groups for their academics.

The teachers in Grades 1-3 work very closely together following the curriculum. Ideas are shared among each other during weekly curriculum workshops. Each classroom parallels each other, though the teachers do have different teaching methods and styles, which reflect their personality style. In addition to the Instructional Assistants in each class, the lower grades also have the support of a Learning Resource Specialist, Speech and Language Therapist and Educational Therapist.

St. Simon Parish School uses a departmentalized scheduling model in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. While traditionally most elementary school students receive their education with a single teacher who teach the core subjects (Math, Language Arts, Religion, Social Studies and Science), the student's home room teacher will instruct their students in language Arts and one other core subject. This departmentalization allows teachers to dedicate their time in an area of expertise.

Middle School is considered to be 6th through 8th grade. Our goal during these years is to properly prepare our children for high school. These students change classrooms each 85 minute period and are taught by dedicated subject teachers. They follow a block schedule, like many high schools do, which allow them to learn to balance their homework and extra-curricular activities.

### **Service Learning/Outreach**

As a cornerstone of Saint Simon Parish School, we foster community outreach and service beginning in kindergarten. We are able to extend a helping hand to foster children, abused women and less fortunate children and families in our community and around the world. As a school, our grades 1-8 students are formed into "families" so that our middle school students can teach and nurture our younger students.

### **Catholic Sacraments**

In keeping with the Catholic tradition, the religion classes are taught to prepare the students for their upcoming sacraments. Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are received during 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.