



Elevator Speeches & 4 Great Things Bullets

Overall: St. Joseph Catholic School students live their faith through action, achieve high academic levels and engage with their community, all in a safe, family-like atmosphere.

AREA 1: Faith in Action

- Ability to integrate faith with any curricular area
- Parish school with a church next door and the pastor makes class visits
- Theology class 4 days a week and Mass once a week where students participate in ministerial roles
- Adoration once a month
- Daily prayer at the beginning of the day, as well as before and after meals
- Sacramental preparation and opportunity to receive sacraments regularly
- Prayer services in recognition of liturgical calendar
- 100% of students participate in at least one of the service activities
- Campus minister and Spiritual Life Committee which promotes faith integration and promotion of Catholic mission at school and home
- Ethic/moral compass instilled in each student
- Culture of caring and respect for all

St. Joseph students live faith in action throughout their learning, including through Mass, adoration, prayer and service. The pastor, campus minister and Spiritual Life Committee facilitate faith-based education.

AREA 2: High Academic Standards

- 16:1 student - teacher ratio
- Students typically perform 1- 2 grade levels ahead of standard assessment
- Freshman parents continually hear how well prepared students are for high school classes
- Technology embedded in instruction, providing students opportunities to communicate with each other, their community, and the world. All students utilize laptops, iPads (1:1 K-8), online applications and Promethean boards in their educational experience
- Middle school students at St. Joseph Catholic School are issued an iPad for communication, access to information and project creation. The iPad is utilized at school and home throughout the school year
- Average experience for teachers is 13 years
- 56% of teachers have or are working toward higher level degrees
- Spanish classes start in preschool
- Technology usage begins in preschool
- ISASP scores (formerly Iowa Assessments) show St. Joseph students testing among the top 19 percent of schools in the state of Iowa
- 21st Century Learner/21st Century Skills application

St. Joseph students consistently perform well above state averages. Vested teachers ensure high quality instruction infused with technology. Small class sizes allow for individualized education, diverse learning opportunities and real-world applications preparing them for their future.

AREA 3: Safe, Welcoming, Family-Like Atmosphere

- Discipline policy in effect and published in school handbooks
- Main door entrance is monitored and opened electronically, and external doors remain locked during the day
- All staff ALICE trained
- Students participate in regular safety drills (tornado, fire, lockdown) and all students versed in safety procedures
- Video cameras inside and outside the building
- Full time counselor
- School "buddy" system where older students are paired with younger students as mentors.
- Linn-Mar and Marion areas bus to St. Joseph
- Over 88 percent of our school family parents volunteer in social, spiritual or extracurricular capacity
- Welcoming family environment where every teacher knows every student
- Before and after school child care

Students and their families feel welcome and safe at St. Joseph Catholic School through an environment where parents are involved, teachers know every student, and programs, policies and procedures encompass students' well being.

AREA 4: Educating the Whole Child

- Beginning in kindergarten, students have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities
- Four instrumental ensembles, two choirs, 10 athletic teams, a musical production and a variety of math, engineering and science opportunities
- Student Government
- 90% of students in fourth-eighth grade participate in at least one extracurricular activity
- Middle School retreats
- Affiliated scouting organizations for all students
- Fine Arts related field trips

Students at St. Joseph Catholic School engage with their community through extra curricular opportunities. Fine arts, athletics, leadership and STEM programs help students develop and explore what God is calling them to do.