

St. John the Baptist Catholic School

11 Amelia Street, P.O. Box 878 Roodepoort 1725

Tel: (27) (0) 11 763 1050; Fax: (27) (0) 86 672 8789

stjbc@mweb.co.za

PROSPECTUS

EXPLAINING THE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES OF THE SCHOOL AND ITS ACADEMICS

I. GOALS:

St. John the Baptist Catholic School's purpose is to form good Catholics submitted to the reign of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the spiritual, moral and physical spheres, who are also good citizens of South Africa. School children are expected to do their best work and through class teaching and individual guidance achieve a high academic standard. The school insists on good manners and disciplined behaviour to develop the children's character and sense of moral duty. Parents are expected to contribute to this goal by providing a wholesome home environment.

II. SCHOOL PATRON:

The patron of the School is St. John the Baptist, the Precursor of the Lord, whose feast is celebrated on the 24th of June. As St. John showed others the Lamb of God, it is the aim of the School to show the Christian virtues to the children who attend and to help them to serve Our Lord in all aspects of their daily lives. The School coat of arms contains the School colours: black (the cross), white for purity and red for martyrdom. This coat of arms, which is worn in the form of a badge on the blazer or jacket, should encourage the children in a spirit of self denial and self-sacrifice. The four symbols represent the life and death of St. John, namely his food - locusts and wild honey (the locust and the bee), his martyrdom (the sword) and his mission - baptism (represented by the shell).

III. CURRICULUM:

The pupils are taught according to age and ability. Progress is monitored regularly and written reports are sent to parents twice each year. The guidelines set by the Department of Education are followed insofar as they are helpful. The subjects taught are Religious Instruction, English, Mathematics, Afrikaans or Zulu, History, Geography, Science, Music, Art and Physical Education. The grades taught are R – 10 and IGCSE.

IV. DISCIPLINE:

Children are expected to obey those in authority and to be well-mannered and cooperative at all times. Any disciplinary action deemed necessary will aim to help the child to learn to distinguish between doing right and wrong and thus to train the child's character. Parents are notified by letter for bad conduct affecting the school, for missing school Mass, and for other serious offences. After a warning, punishments may include suspension or expulsion. In its approach to discipline the School will conform to Catholic tradition, as expressed by Pope Pius XI, *"Disorderly inclinations must be corrected, good tendencies encouraged and regulated from tender childhood, and, compulsory above all, the mind must be enlightened and the will strengthened by supernatural truth and by the means of grace, without which it is impossible to attain the full and complete perfection of education intended by the Church, which Christ has endowed so richly with divine doctrine and with the Sacraments, the efficacious means of grace"*. (*Divini Illius Magistri*)

V. UNIFORM:

The purpose of the uniform is to make the children look dignified and give them a sense of self respect, self-confidence and pride in the school. A uniform list is supplied for the parents. The uniform should be worn to and from school and at all school functions including School Mass. This means boys will wear their blazers until they have left school premises. Girls will likewise wear their blazers while on school premises.

VI. RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION:

Priests of the Society of St. Pius X supervise the Catholic instruction of the children. Children are prepared for reception of the Sacraments and boys are taught to serve Mass. The imparting of a Catholic education is the *raison d'être* of the School and there are no exemptions for any child from religion class. A child whose behaviour threatens the religious atmosphere of the School will be expelled. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children to Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. Children are required to attend the 7:15am School Mass once a week. The children are given regular opportunities to receive the sacrament of Confession. "*Children,*" says St. John Chrysostom, "*are like a new wax slate which educators (including parents) find easy to write on. Thus it is important that the writing on this slate is true for, when they are older, the wax becomes hard and it is difficult to change what has been put there.*" It is the prime objective of the School to place in the minds of the children as a first impression the doctrine of Jesus Christ and show them ways in which they can put this doctrine into practice.

VII. ACADEMICS:

English: Classes are taught in English, therefore all children must become proficient in English as a first language. We insist on a high degree of neatness and correct spelling. School children will be taught to express their thoughts correctly and in a readable manner. The school gives attention to grammar and spelling.

Mathematics: Children are daily drilled on their multiplication tables and mental arithmetic, so that they exercise their minds and gain confidence with numbers.

Afrikaans & Zulu: These are the first additional languages taught at the school. Only one can be taken at a time. Emphasis is placed on the spoken language.

Music/Singing: The children learn music and singing.

Art: Art is an important part of a child's education.

Geography: Our aim is to give the children a good general background and a knowledge of South African and world geography.

History: We pay attention to South African history and also study the history of ancient civilizations and of Christendom and the Church.

Science and Environmental Studies: The children concentrate on those aspects of physical science that immediately surround and concern them. We hope to keep a balance between book learning and practical experimentation. It is taught that religion and science cannot be in contradiction, and consequently that the theory of evolution of the species is false.

Physical Education: The body must most certainly be exercised and the boys must have an outlet for their natural exuberance and to their competitiveness. The girls, on the other hand, must learn gracefulness of movement and a certain poise. Hence the aims and purpose of Physical Education for boys and girls are different, their classes are separate, as also their games during recreation. During the summer the children have the possibility of swimming. Parents should bear in mind the Church's moral teaching when purchasing a swimming costume, which must be modest. The school costume will be black or red.