



All Saints Academy

“Let the Children Come to Me.”

**All Saints Academy
Policy on Exceptionalities**

Is there a better place to start when discussing exceptional children and inclusionary practices than Jesus’ own words?

And they brought to him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, and said, Suffer little children come to me, and forbid them no: for of such is the kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. Luke 18:15-17

Before we can even delve into school policy, we are reminded first of our call as Catholics and specifically Catholic educators. In every one of our religion classes we remind students that the word “catholic” means universal. We sing songs at Mass such as “All Are Welcome,” “Come To The Table,” and “We Are All One Body.” At the very core of our Church is the idea of community and how we are all called to come together in the name of Christ. As a school, we must be cognizant that while we are all created in God’s image, no one person is alike. Each and every student brings different gifts and abilities to our school. Before we can carry out our mission of partnering and serving with our families, parishes, and communities to develop the whole child, we must first recognize the differences each child brings and meet that student at the place they are, so they themselves are better served.

Catholic Social Teaching

We are reminded by John Paul II that solidarity is “a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all” (Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, no. 38). United States Catholic Bishops emphasize that the values of the Church’s social teaching must not be treated as tangential or optional. They must be a core part of teaching and formation. Without Catholic social teaching, schools would be offering an incomplete presentation of our Catholic tradition. This would fall short of the mission of the Church and would be a serious loss for those associated with education. The Congregation of Catholic Education beautifully states,

“The Catholic school sets out to be a school for the human person and of human persons. The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ’s teaching: this is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic School” (paragraph 9).

Contact:
Michael Debri, Principal
All Saints Academy
Grand Rapids, MI
mdebri@asagr.org