



## Technology Program

**At St. Joseph School, we integrate technology and human resources to provide our students with a meaningful and authentic learning experience.**

### **Technological Resources**

Every computer in our school provides high-speed Internet access via our proxy server and a T-1 dedicated line. Of course, we protect our young learners' view of the Internet by utilizing filtering software on our network. Our computers connect to a high-speed Windows network, allowing collaborative projects and increased teacher-student communication. Students have access to printers, DVD players, digital cameras and scanners.

### **Classroom and Computer Lab PCs**

We recently upgraded all of the computers in the classrooms to match the efficiency of the units in the Computer Lab. The Computer Lab has 31 PCs running XP and Microsoft Office applications, network software that augments core subject teaching standards, as well as Internet access.

### **Teacher and Training Collaboration**

We believe in providing our teachers with resources to update their teaching approaches with current advancements in technology. St. Joseph teachers have access to Microsoft Training, enabling them to deepen their understanding of all the Office products we use at school. By implementing collaborative projects, training extends beyond basic software and the traditional classroom experience. One example is our 6<sup>th</sup> grade World Wonders project. 6<sup>th</sup> graders identify specific "wonders" in the social studies classroom, and then follow this learning with detailed Internet research in the Lab. This project culminates with the creation of a souvenir t-shirt using Microsoft Word, giving details of the chosen wonder learned through the research process. Another example is the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade space project, blending classroom learning with reinforcement and expansion in the Lab. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders use the Internet to research the planets and compete in teams to win a "Space Brain Quest" game.

### **Student Training and Usage**

Students are taught the basics of the computer and its components, as well as how to effectively use Microsoft products – Word, Excel and PowerPoint. In the higher grade levels, once competency with core software has been established, training is given on digital cameras, scanners and Windows Movie Maker software. Additionally, award-winning keyboarding, language arts, math, science and geography software programs are available for use throughout the year. Older students exhibit their work in the Computer Lab, providing each student the opportunity to enhance group presentation skills. Our curriculum doesn't focus on static productivity, although basic skills are emphasized throughout the year. We strive to provide dynamic, challenging projects that integrate classroom learning with technology tools.

### **Acceptable Use Policy**

Students and their parents are required to sign an Acceptable Use Policy at the beginning of the school year. This signed policy is an agreement between the student, parent and school which clarifies the student's required code of conduct with regards to school equipment, the school network and the Internet. This agreement provides the framework for the safety of our students, allowing us to concentrate on learning.