

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

### **ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE SCHOOL**

***Building lives of promise. Living lives of faith.***

***St. Madeleine Sophie School is dedicated to providing the highest quality education in an environment of Catholic faith and moral values. We seek to develop Christian leadership by promoting active service in the wider community. Our graduates will be equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities of life-long education in a diverse and complex world.***

St. Madeleine Sophie School is entering its fifth year of a journey that will culminate in a fully approved and accredited Pre Kindergarten through Grade 8 educational ministry of the parish. Our academic goal is the mastery of skills enabling students to achieve their greatest potential for success in high school and beyond. We strive to be a Catholic educational community that is as welcoming and responsive as possible to the needs of all parish families who exhibit the desire to attend. As space is available, enrollment is opened to the larger community.

In order to best serve this rich diversity of students, special emphasis is given to recruiting staff who are skilled in teaching students within a broad range of learning abilities. So, too, we are committed to administering a tuition plan in such a way that no parish family with a legitimate desire for a Catholic education will ever be turned away for financial reasons.

Most importantly, St. Madeleine Sophie School is the newest extension of the broad mix of quality ministries at which the parish excels. The program has been created to complement and enhance the community's outreach to parish youth and collaborates with the parish leadership's faith formation goals, giving parents an additional resource to aid in their role as the primary educator of their children.

## **STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

St. Madeleine Sophie School was founded on the premise that each person has a unique and dynamic relationship with our Creator. Thus, our goal is to stimulate within the child a growing awareness of this relationship both as an individual and as a member of the Church community. The result of this awareness is a child encouraged to become a creative and responsible member of society.

We acknowledge that each child has his/her own time and place of learning and a method and motivation for the things he/she will learn. Furthermore, the sense of wonder and love of life is inherent in every child and must be nurtured.

Our commitment, then, is to facilitate an on-going self-education within the child and to provide a creative environment with opportunities for individual self-direction and decision-making.

As a Catholic school, we strive to become a community of believers where parents, staff and students seek to grow in the knowledge and love of God and one another. In our pursuit of academic success, instruction emboldened by Catholic values functions as the underlying reality in which the students' experiences of learning and living reach their deepest meaning.

Flowing from this understanding, St. Madeleine Sophie School operates with the goal of providing the *Christian Educational Community* necessary for such growth to take place.

## **CURRICULUM**

The school faculty oversees an ongoing process of curriculum development geared to mastery according to the capability of the individual child. The teaching methods used are varied and contemporary; an outgrowth of sound learning theory. The curriculum is animated by teachers, students, and parents working in concert to bring meaningful learning experiences to children.

- *Through daily association with families and professionally qualified faculty visibly committed to a Christian lifestyle, our school provides opportunities for the student to develop a personal commitment to Gospel values.*
- *By developing basic educational skills, both in communication and reasoning, we provide the framework necessary for students to take their role as society's intelligent decision-makers of the future.*
- *In helping form an awareness of one's membership in a larger community, the faculty strives to develop in each student a responsibility to that larger group and the call for a personal pledge to justice and service for the common good.*

To accomplish this end, St. Madeleine Sophie School provides an opportunity for education to any child who wishes to attend and who exhibits the desire to grow in this spirit. A concerted effort is made to attract students of all backgrounds from within the Parish as well as non-parishioners, and we commit to design strategies to make this opportunity accessible for all families.

## **CURRICULUM VISION STATEMENT**

Realizing the human need for identity, relatedness, and purpose, and while recognizing parents' role as the primary educators of their children, we propose a graduate who is striving to become:

### *A SPIRITUAL PERSON . . .*

*... who recognizes and responds to God as intimately present within all persons - particularly within his/her own being - and within all creation; committed to a Christian lifestyle and active in the faith community.*

### *A WHOLE PERSON . . .*

*... who realistically affirms the sense of his/her own potential; who appreciates the beauty and privilege of one's own sexuality; who is intellectually alert, emotionally and physically healthy, and morally self-disciplined, self-confident, and self-motivated.*

### *A LOVING PERSON . . .*

*... who values the sense of belonging and interconnectedness of all earth's people, reverencing one another's diversity, freedom, and privacy; able to reach out to others by sharing one's own time, talent, resources, and person; capable of forgiving hurts, mending relationships, and healing wounds.*

### *A RESPONSIBLE PERSON . . .*

*...capable of confidently and competently asking critical questions, responding to meeting just needs, protecting personal rights, and respecting and reverencing all of creation; committed to seeking peaceful resolutions of conflict; while enjoying his/her own satisfaction in tasks well done.*

### *A HOPE-FILLED PERSON . . .*

*...who is rooted in our still unfolding Catholic tradition; eager to face the future in faith and trust with critical, reflective, creative, and peaceful anticipation.*

## **FACULTY VISION STATEMENT**

Within the mission of St. Madeleine Sophie School, it is our professional goal to graduate students who have mastered skills enabling them to positively influence their world through leadership, knowledge, respect and service.

We accept the responsibility to form the curricular structure for a *Christian Educational Community* of the new century, shaped by a Catholic world-view, which empowers students toward interconnectedness; to live a life directed toward "We" rather than "Me."

To accomplish this, we will strive to:

- Engage in on-going curriculum development which is authentically rooted in problem solving and higher-order skills.
- Establish standards that honor diversity and the values of justice, tolerance, community and relationships.
- Recognize that all children can learn and hold high expectations for the success of each student.
- Teach in ways that empower all students regardless of economic, religious, cultural, familial or educational differences.
- Recognize that the leadership to achieve this end is shared collaboratively, not directionally, and each member has a responsibility to participate in the betterment of the whole.
- Remain visionary and innovative in all forms of outstanding instructional practice.
- Remember that we are not alone on this journey. Education at St. Madeleine Sophie's is not something we do "to" or "for" families, but "with" them.

We, as teachers, serve as collaborators in a process in which students become able to actively participate in an increasingly diverse and technologically complex world. Our curriculum, instruction, assessment - and our continuing education to ensure that outcome - all need to embrace that understanding.

**To this end, the staff has identified the following curriculum goals. They serve as the foundation of our educational mission:**

**GOAL I**

**To actively live out the Gospel values.**

**GOAL II**

**To read with comprehension, write with skill, and communicate effectively and responsibly in a variety of ways and settings.**

**GOAL III**

**To know and apply the core concepts and principles of religion, mathematics, the natural and social sciences, the arts, health and fitness.**

**GOAL IV**

**To think analytically, logically and creatively and to integrate experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems.**

**GOAL V**

**To acquire skills and exhibit attitudes that enhance self-ownership of the learning process and to understand the importance of work and how performance, effort and decisions directly affect future educational and life opportunities.**

**GOAL VI**

**To develop skills and attitudes that facilitate successful participation within, and positive enhancement of, local, regional and global communities.**

**GOAL VII**

**To know and apply the principles and practices of active, healthy and responsible lifestyles.**

**PARENT VISION STATEMENT**

Parents of students at St. Madeleine Sophie School recognize the fact that the education of students is a challenge that is shared by school staff, the students and the parents themselves. St. Madeleine Sophie parents wish to see their children fulfill their potential to be positive, participating adults with a dedication to the values and skills learned as students at our school.

Parents believe and support the idea that they can help to influence this outcome by doing the following things to support their children while at St. Madeleine Sophie School:

- Homework is a necessary part of a good education. Parents will set aside a time and an appropriate place for study, and will see that homework assignments are completed to the best of the child's ability.
- Modern electronic media can have both a positive and a negative influence on children. Parents will monitor their children's activity and will remain vigilant to help them make good decisions about their choices.
- School is physically demanding on young people. Parents will help their children with the physical demands of school by seeing that they have a good diet, including a well balanced lunch, and that their children get to bed at appropriate times for their age and get a good night's sleep.
- Responsibility and independence are two important values children must learn. Parents will help in this learning by helping their children get ready for school so that they can arrive on time and with the materials needed for class.

As a Catholic school, the people of St. Madeleine Sophie are striving to become a community of believers where staff, parents, and students seek to grow in the knowledge and love of God and one another. Parents, as first teachers of their children, will guide them in the formation of faith and moral values reflective of a Christian Educational Community.

### **THE HISTORY OF ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE PARISH AND SCHOOL**

On June 8, 1968 Archbishop Thomas Connolly announced the formation of a new parish in the South Bellevue area, to be placed under the patronage of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, foundress of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who have a convent and school within the parish boundaries. Property had been acquired on a sloping site of approximately 10 acres, with an existing house.

St. Madeleine Sophie parish began under the guidance of Fr. Jarlath Heneghan, the founding pastor. Neighborhoods were carved from the existing parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Louise of Bellevue, St. Anthony of Renton, and St. Joseph of Issaquah. Fr. J moved into the house, and Sunday Masses were celebrated at Tye Junior High School, which became known affectionately by parishioners as "St. Tye."

In the fall of 1968, the first general census and Foundation Fund Campaign was successfully completed. With tremendous enthusiasm, generosity and cooperation, along with God's blessings, the campaign was a resounding success.

Design studies for the sloping site resulted in the present three-level plan, with the church sanctuary on the top level and social hall, classrooms and offices below. Architectural plans were approved by the Archdiocesan Building Committee in February of 1970, and Masses began in the new facility on April 4, 1971, Palm Sunday.

In 1977 the founding Pastor was succeeded by Fr. Gerald Mayovsky. As the parish grew, we were blessed to have associates Rev. Kurt Woellner, Rev. William Harris and several priests of the Society of Jesus assisting on weekends. The lay staff also was expanded, and the parish became known for its outstanding faith formation programs for children and youth. During this era a Blessed Sacrament Chapel and Reconciliation Chapel were incorporated into the sanctuary level and the parish debt was retired.

Fr. George Rink began his pastorate in 1990. During his time at St. Madeleine Sophie there were not the priests available to assist, and Fr. George placed even greater emphasis upon developing trained volunteers and staff. A milestone event was the celebration of our 25th Anniversary as a parish. Our fourth pastor, Fr. John Renggli, was with us only three years, but is remembered for his dedication to all who needed priestly care.

In 2000, as we celebrated the Jubilee Year, the parish welcomed Fr. Jim Picton as its fifth pastor and Fr. Emmanuel Iweh, Parochial Vicar. The growing parish population, which was nearing 1500 households, was overjoyed at again

having two priests. Their gifts, combined with those of our committed staff and volunteers are bringing a dynamic start to the new millennium.

Perhaps the strongest common thread running through the history of the parish is the commitment, dedication and loyalty of our people. St. Madeleine has truly become a People of God out of the spirit of Vatican II. Our many gifts and talents are readily shared, enabling our various ministries to flourish and increasingly meet the needs of the parish family and community.

Included in these needs has always been discernment about the ministry of a parish school. At the time of the founding of the parish, the trend within Catholic school education was a transition away from a teaching faculty consisting almost exclusively of women from religious orders to staffs hired from the ranks of professional lay men and women. This major shift was accompanied with a corresponding substantive increase in parish financial resource allocation that many parishes found difficult to realize. This, coupled with shifting opinions on the efficacy of religious education methodologies, presented enough questions to parish leadership to postpone any decision on opening our own school to a later date.

Many times the request was made to revisit the proposal, yet a critical mass of interest and resources was not realized until a parish goal development process beginning with a survey in February 2001. By the time the goals were promulgated in September of that year, it was clear that support for a new parish ministry spanned parish age groups. Thus, the Pastoral Council determined that a parish elementary school would become part of future plans as long as it was deemed financially and demographically feasible. A School Feasibility Task Force, consisting of parish representatives and outside consultants, and chaired by Bruce Laing, was formed with the charge of determining which, if any, hurdles might stand in the way. Periodic reports to the parish and Pastoral Council continued to affirm what many had hoped: the community was ready to support an investment in the future of its youth by opening the diocese's newest Catholic elementary school. On Catechetical Sunday, September 21, 2003, Pastor Fr. Jim Picton, formally announced the intention to open St. Madeleine Sophie Catholic School in September of 2005. Chairman Laing, now joined by co-chair Michael Ensminger, rededicated the Task Force to the logistical mission of launching the program. Subsequent months of fine-tuning the model climaxed with the hiring of the school's first principal in July 2004.

By early fall, through the grace of God and the intercession of our patron, St. Madeleine Sophie, it was determined that Opening Day would be September 6, 2005.

### **WHO WAS ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE?**

Madeleine Sophie Barat was born in Joigny, a small town in northern France, on December 12, 1779. She grew up in the simple home of a barrel-maker where her brother, Louis, unable to complete his training for the priesthood, because of the political, social and religious upheaval of the French Revolution, gave her a remarkable intellectual formation for a young girl of the time. He introduced her to ancient history, the classics, literature and languages. At the age of sixteen, she went with Louis to Paris where she continued her studies in philosophy, theology and scripture.

It was in Paris that she learned of plans to form a new congregation of women whose end would be to make known the universal and unconditional love of God revealed in the person of Jesus. On November 21, 1800, Madeleine Sophie and three others consecrated their lives to God in the Society of the Sacred Heart. In this act, they committed themselves to a way of life that would be both contemplative and active, deeply rooted in prayer and devoted to the service of others in union with Jesus through the power of his Spirit.

In the aftermath of the French Revolution, Madeleine Sophie saw the education of women as the primary means by which the Society would enable others to come to know God's love and be empowered to bring about social change within their particular areas of influence. Gradually, she opened schools throughout France and Europe. In 1818, Mother Barat sent Philippine Duchesne to North America. From St. Charles, Missouri, the Society spread through the United States, Canada, the Antilles, Mexico and South America.

Today, Religious of the Sacred Heart represent a diversity of cultures and races and serve in more than forty-one countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Central America and South America. Since 1906, Religious of the

Sacred Heart have served in the Archdiocese of Seattle. Besides staffing Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart on Somerset, others in the community minister in parishes, social service agencies, health care facilities, educational institutions and spiritual development programs.

Madeleine Sophie Barat died on May 25, 1865. She was beatified in 1908 and canonized in 1925 at which time the Church recognized her virtues of wisdom, humility and charity. Philippine Duchesne, her pioneer friend and follower, was canonized in 1988.

### **AN AMERICAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

Like all educational institutions, Catholic schools are called to prepare students for the future. Unlike other educational institutions, Catholic schools are committed to shaping the future by helping students to understand fully, accept freely and live faithfully the gospel message found in the teachings of Jesus and the Catholic Church. While Catholic school educators live and work in the present and are heirs of a rich tradition, their work shapes the future. Therefore, Catholic schools commit themselves to a strategic planning process that supports and strengthens their effectiveness. It is this future-focused process that lights new fires for Catholic and American education.

School-based initiatives are complemented and assisted by Archdiocesan and national efforts. The Archdiocesan Schools Office plays a significant role in helping the administration and teachers prepare students for the future. The vision of the National Congress on Catholic Schools for the Twenty-First Century and its follow up convocations and documents forged by thousands of key people in the Catholic educational community, offers a strong foundation for effective planning.

### **ABOUT CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP**

Catholic Stewardship calls us to live as disciples of the Lord; being responsible stewards of the gifts God has given us. All members of the parish have their own roles to play in carrying out the mission of Christ's Church. Parents are called to nurture their children in the light of faith. Parishioners are called to work in concrete ways to make St. Madeleine's a true community of faith and a vibrant source of service to the larger community. All Catholics are called to give generous support of time, money, prayer and personal service - according to their circumstance - to parish, archdiocese and the universal Church.

Specifically, the spirit of Stewardship asks that:

- Our financial donation to the Church should be proportional to our income. Scripture lists 10% as the ideal tithe. A suggestion would be starting at 1% and slowly increasing over the years.
- Our donation to the Church and other charities should come from the "first fruits" of our resources, not from what is left over after paying all the other bills. Some families write a monthly check for the parish before paying all the other bills. Some other families sit down and write the four (sometimes five) weekly checks for the Church before paying the bills, and then set them aside for their weekly contribution.
- Our donation is given in a spirit of thanksgiving for what God has given us, and is done in the context of Sunday Mass. A Stewardship donation is brought to the altar and is part of the offering at Mass.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF THE SCHOOL**

While the oversight for diocesan and parish educational management flows from the Archbishop to the Pastor as described in the Revised Code of Canon Law, this is done within a framework of collaboration with many individuals and consultative groups.

In a Parish school, the decision making process moves from broad to specific actions with each level entrusted to a specific group or person. At St. Madeleine Sophie's, a unique blend of Pastor, Administration, Parish Pastoral Council, School Commission, Faith Formation Commission, Finance Council, Development Committee, Parents' Association, and a number of other groups, all might take a role in formulating an end product.

Two distinct tiers of organization form the umbrella support for St. Madeleine Sophie Parish as Roman Catholic faith community for the South Bellevue area:

- **Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle:** the regional division for the Roman Catholic Church in Western Washington, stretching from Bellingham on the north to Vancouver in the south and from the Pacific Ocean eastward to the summit of the Cascade mountains. The chief officer of the diocese is the Archbishop. The diocese was formally established on May 31, 1850. A division of the diocesan administration, the Catholic Schools Office, serves as the link to the local level in the areas of guidelines and consultation. The Superintendent of Schools heads this office.
- **Eastside Deanery:** a subdivision of the Archdiocese with the primary intent to aid in regional planning. The Eastside Deanery, of which St. Madeleine Sophie's is a part, represents the 14 parishes and 9 schools in northeast King County from Lake Washington and Mercer Island east to Snoqualmie.

If you desire a more complete description of Parish governance, contact the School office. You may also wish to study a number of different publications, among them – [Many Gifts, One Spirit](#) - available through the Parish office.

### **ASSOCIATED BODIES**

St. Madeleine Sophie School is connected to a number of other governing, leadership and advisory bodies. Included in those to which you may most often hear referred are:

- **National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA):** has been providing leadership and service to American Catholic educators since 1904. It is the largest private professional education organization in the world. NCEA's institutional and individual memberships represent Catholic education at all levels: Pre Kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, seminaries and religious education programs. Within its mission are the goals to: advance the total educational mission of the church; articulate the contributions of Catholic education to the church and society; proclaim the uniqueness of Catholic schools; provides leadership and service to its members; advocates recognition of and support for Catholic education; and foster local, national and international collaboration.
- **Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC):** a corporation of the three Catholic dioceses in the State of Washington with primary responsibility of representing the position of the Catholic Church in legislative and regulatory action. The WSCC teams with other private school groups to advocate for private school issues in Olympia.
- **Washington Federation of Independent Schools (WFIS):** represents over 70% of the private school students in the State of Washington. It is a coalition of independent and privately sponsored schools committed to serving and enhancing the public good. WFIS' mission is to strengthen the quality of education in Washington while serving as advocate and voice for all private schools in the state. The commonly shared values that motivate the coalition include: holistic educational excellence; freedom of expression and educational choice; involvement and empowerment of parents; and strength in members' diversity - respected and united through consensus decision-making.
- **Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS):** is one of six regional associations in the nation with primary purpose of advancing the cause of education in colleges and schools. This is done by developing educational policies and activities that will extend and improve educational opportunities and service; and to develop criteria of evaluation that will continuously stimulate, evaluate and accredit vital educational efforts. At this printing, St. Madeleine Sophie School, being a new program, is not yet eligible for full accreditation. When accepted for membership, we will pursue full standing through this body's relationship to the **Western Catholic Educational Association** process.
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI):** is the state administrative office for elementary and secondary education. While the vast majority of its purpose is related to state-funded schools, it also oversees government regulation of privately funded educational institutions and the certification of all teachers in the

state. It is through this office that St. Madeleine Sophie School receives its annual approval for operation. OSPI is headed by the publicly elected Superintendent and works closely with the **State Board of Education**.

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

At St. Madeleine Sophie School we believe that there are certain skills, knowledge and experiences that are central to Catholic education. These have been structured into an integrated and coordinated set of courses. All students attending St. Madeleine Sophie School will participate in the required core curriculum.

St. Madeleine Sophie School offers education for students in grades Pre Kindergarten through Eight. The curriculum integrates the following subjects: Religion, Language Arts (reading, writing, spelling, English, speaking, listening), Mathematics, Social Studies (geography, history, civics), Science, Music, Art, Physical Education and Health. Family life, substance abuse education and lessons in personal safety, among others, are co-curriculars offered during the school year.

Grades PK-3 are considered self-contained, although teachers freely exchange one or two classes with the next grade level when appropriate. Grades 4-8 are departmentalized with a teacher serving as homeroom teacher as well as a specialist in one or two core curriculum areas (e.g., Mathematics, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science.) When the program is fully developed, all students will receive formal Physical Education, Music and World Language instruction from a specialist.

### **ELIGIBILITY OF ENROLLMENT**

St. Madeleine Sophie School admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

### **ARCHDIOCESAN POLICY**

The Archdiocesan Policy Handbook is available for viewing in the school office.