

# SAINT AGNES S C H O O L

The smartest start for your child



# **EDUCATION**

St. Agnes School meets the academic, social, and developmental needs of young students whose parents want their children's first school experiences to be great ones. We welcome children of all faiths. We cultivate intellectual growth while engaging heart and spirit. Our core subjects include many cross-curricular projects, all with a strong emphasis on literacy. We encourage creativity and confidence in the classroom and offer exceptional art, technology, French, and music programs.

# **FAITH**

We share with parents a commitment to the spiritual growth of Catholic children and children of all faiths. Religious education and character development are components of the St. Agnes curriculum. We encourage students to grow religiously, spiritually and morally, as well as physically, socially, and intellectually.

# **FAMILY**

The role of St. Agnes parents, grandparents, and caregivers cannot be overstated. Family involvement is integral to our students' education. Opportunities for engagement include attending our many celebrations and presentations, volunteering in our classrooms, participating on committees, chaperoning field trips, or simply joining us for lunch.



# **PRESCHOOL**

## IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

Our three- and four-year olds have many opportunities to engage in teacher-guided and child-driven creative play. This allows them to develop their imaginations, physical dexterity, and cognitive abilities. Emerging interests are identified and supported through play at our learning centers, on the playground, and in our well-equipped gym.

#### **WORKING WITH OTHERS**

Our preschoolers are supported as they make new friends, learn to share, and work closely with caring adults and in small peer groups. Children learn and feel safe within our predictable and enjoyable school routines. We create classrooms that promote self-expression and self-awareness, and we cultivate important social skills such as listening, sharing, and taking turns.

#### FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS

Our carefully planned schedules and curriculum encourage cognitive, physical, and emotional development. Three-year olds are are introduced to books, letters, patterns, counting, puzzles, games, and interesting objects. Four-year-olds learn letter sounds, number identification, and shape names. Music, French, art, and dramatic play are incorporated for multi-sensory and interactive learning.



# KINDERGARTEN

We believe that Kindergarten students learn best when they're actively engaged and having fun. Our child-centered curriculum incorporates activities that improve coordination; develop language, reading and writing skills; and encourage problem solving and social awareness. By embedding skills and content into all aspects of the curriculum, students eagerly participate and strive toward academic excellence. The outcome of our Kindergarten design is simple: every child is prepared for his or her journey through school and gains a love of learning.



## PRIMARY GRADES

In 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades, learning abounds. Our teachers set, and our students meet, high standards. The curriculum encourages students to explore, discover, and build upon individual strengths and talents. We use a whole child approach to education. Our skilled teachers design gradelevel curricula with students' cognitive, academic, and social growth in mind.

We focus on literacy because it plays a central role in school success. Reading excellence allows children to become proficient in all subject areas and pursuits, and it is highly correlated with school achievement.

Educational research demonstrates that the quality of instruction students receive in the elementary grades often determines future school success. By setting a high bar and scaffolding instruction, we aim to encourage students in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades to become skillful and confident learners in language arts, math, science, and social studies.



# FAITH FORMATION Students are encouraged to deepen their faith through understanding the teachings of the Catholic faith. We offer a religion class to our primary school students. Lessons use developmentally appropriate texts, including Christ Our Life and Discover! Finding Faith in Life, and incorporate handson projects. Elements of faith formation and character development are emphasized throughout the academic day. Students learn to embrace gospel values and acts of kindness, as well as see themselves and others as God's creation with a purpose.



### **SPECIALS**

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Gym class at St. Agnes develops sports-specific skills, coordination and balance, and good sportsmanship. Gym is also a time when our children can simply be active and learn healthy habits.

#### SCIENCE

Our science program is an interactive, technology-integrated exploration of the natural world. Using Next Generation Science Standards as a guide, students undertake experiments that encourage critical thinking and verbalizing explanations.

#### LASTING LESSONS

In Lasting Lessons, students gain self-awareness and respect for others by practicing skills such as being honest, developing courage, and articulating feelings. As the year progresses, other social dynamics are explored, including developing manners and recognizing bullying.

#### **ART**

In our art classes, children joyfully express themselves and complete multi-step, creative projects using paint, clay, and fiber. In addition to building fine motor skills, art classes encourage inventiveness and decision-making. Students gain exposure to and explore the great masters of art.

#### **FRENCH**

French instruction is divided into thematic units in which students learn about Epiphany in French families, Mardi Gras, famous people in French history, and Parisian landmarks. Special emphasis is placed on vocabulary, dialogue, and song.

#### **MUSIC**

The robust music program at St. Agnes exposes children to rhythm, song, and theatre. Students sing, dance, play instruments, and rehearse performances, including a Christmas concert and a spring musical.



# SPARK STEM, Play, Art, and Recreation for Kids

SPARK is our afterschool program and summer camp. Students and Campers explore, discover, create, and invent!

SPARK After School is held Monday-Friday during the academic year. Children in Kindergarten-3rd grade enjoy healthy snacks, complete their iReady homework on laptops, and participate in indoor and outdoor play and clubs – including Minecraft, Legos, French Culture and Cuisine, Mad Scientists, and Art and Invention.

SPARK Camp runs Monday-Friday from the end of June through the end of August. Session dates and registration information can be found at www.stagneslp.org/forms. Children entering grades Kindergarten-5th enjoy arts & crafts, Iron Chef contests, outdoor experiences, water play, and more. Camp takes place at the Daisy Reiss Camp Property off of Saranac Avenue and at St. Agnes School.



# GAP

#### Growth Achievement Program

GAP provides educational coaching and services, including speech, occupational, and physical therapies, one-on-one and small group counseling, and academic support to every student who would benefit. We offer assessment and intervention with specialists at the first sign of one or more learning delays. Many educational settings can only offer services to students who "score low enough," on screenings and tests. At St. Agnes, we have a GAP team ready to offer intervention and enrichment to all students in need of support, as well as accelerated opportunities for students working beyond their grade level.

# SEL Social-Emotional Learning

SEL supports students' growth and development, equipping them with a healthy sense of self and others, as well as strategies to thrive in a school setting. Practiced throughout the day, and often taught in conjunction with our faith formation program, concepts such as self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, and interpersonal skills are vital to our students' wellbeing. Classroom activities and group events are specially designed to encourage sharing, empathy, and cooperation. When children have healthy social-emotional skills, they are better able to engage, interact, and learn.



# TRADITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

100th Day of School Party

Aggie Day

Authors' Night

Back-to-School Family BBQ

Blessing of the Animals

Catholic Schools/Spirit Week

Christmas Bazaar and Gingerbread Contest

**Christmas Concert** 

Coffee Hour in the Foyer

Crowning of Mary

Family Color Run

**Geography Night** 

Graduation

Grandparents Tea

Halloween Parade

Open House and STEM Show

**Prayer Services** 

**Primary Parties** 

Read Across America

**Reading Olympics** 

Rummage Sale

Science Fair

SPARK: After School and Summer Camp

Spring Gala

**Spring Musical** 

Trunk-Or-Treat

Tucker Farms Fall Trip

Whiteface Lodge Holiday Party



# BIRTH TO AGE THREE

As Lake Placid's only early learning center, St. Agnes School not only educates children age three to grade three, but also offers resources, support, and social events for babies and younger children. We are proud to be one of several organizations in Essex County that is committed to offering programming that supports the developmental and social needs of babies and toddlers.

From infancy through toddlerhood, children explore their surroundings, interact with others, form strong bonds, develop language, and establish a sense of well-being. These years are also important in the lives of parents as they form attachments and learn to meet and balance the needs of their children. Our Birth to Age Three programs are free and open to the public.

# **FACULTY AND STAFF**



Katie Turner Principal



Father John Yonkovig
Pastor



Jessica Deeb Music Teacher



Christy Favata
2nd & 3rd Grade Teacher



Jessica Field Kindergarten Teacher



Denise Figueroa Teaching Assistant



Sarah Fitzgerald Teaching Assistant



Richard Harris Teaching Assistant



Alayna Hester 1st Grade Teacher



Pamela MacDonald French Teacher



Jason McComber P.E. Teacher



Gillian McLean
Art & Science Teacher



Kathleen Murphy Administrative Assistant



Emma Orlic Preschool Teacher



Vanessa Pillen Assistant Principal



Nettie Seymour Preschool Teacher



Olga Toptunova Teaching Assistant



Andrew Trainor Preschool Teacher

#### **ENROLLING AT ST. AGNES**

Families are encouraged to attend our annual Open House in the spring. Parents may also call to schedule a visit or request information by mail. Open enrollment takes place at the end of April into early May, after which applications will continue to

be reviewed as space allows. Applications can be found at www.stagneslp.org/forms.



#### **AFFORDABILITY**

Thanks to our Adopt-a-Student and Bishop's Funds, our parish, supporting parishes, and donations from individuals and foundations, St. Agnes School is able to award needbased tuition assistance to families who qualify. Monthly payment plans are available through FACTS. Paperwork and links can be found on our website or be mailed to you.

#### FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Parents and caregivers are engaged in the life of the school. There are numerous opportunities to stay involved: serving on the PTO, attending family events, offering special activities, and volunteering at our fundraisers. Parents are encouraged to support their child's school experience and the success of the school.

#### UP AND AWAY: 4TH GRADE AND BEYOND

Our graduates thrive in their next schools. We prepare our students and support our parents during the transition to area public and private schools. Alumni/ae of all ages remain part of the St. Agnes family and often continue to attend SPARK summer camp and events throughout the year.

To apply, schedule a visit, or receive a welcome packet, please contact:

Catherine Bemis, Principal admin@stagneslp.org (518) 523-3771

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