



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

AT ST. PIUS X / ST. LEO SCHOOL

## CURRICULUM

Students study these core subjects daily: Religion, Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Our curriculum follows the Archdiocese of Omaha standards for areas that directly align or exceed the Nebraska Department of Education's content area standards.

**93%** of SPSL parents reported that their student is well-prepared for the next academic year.

Students in grades K-3 also use the phonics programs of 95% Group and Sadlier Phonics. Language arts block consists of spelling, grammar and writing and is taught everyday. Students in 4th-8th grade have separate English and Reading blocks that cover the areas of grammar, vocabulary, novel and short story study as well as poetry and writing using the 6 traits of writing.

Beginning in 6th grade and based upon established criteria, students may be placed in accelerated literature and math classes that challenge those who excel in those areas. In addition to the upper grades, the primary grades will be offered math enrichment based on standardized test scores, academic scores, and teacher recommendation.

## HIGH SCHOOL PREP

SPSL prepares students for a rigorous high school curriculum. Our students graduate well-prepared to excel academically in high school and beyond.

**95%** of the SPSL Class of 2023 attend a Catholic High School.

Here are some of the ways we ensure our graduates are ready for the next step:

- 6th-8th graders who are advanced beyond their grade level may take **Advanced Literature and Accelerated Math**.
- 7th and 8th graders choose from **four electives each semester**: Choir, Art, Multi-Media, and Speech & Drama.
- 8th graders in the top math class travel to Marian or Creighton Prep for a **high school-level math course**.
- 6th-8th graders follow a **"mods" schedule consisting of 10 mods each day**, similar to a typical high school schedule.

**20%** of SPSL 8th graders who took a high school entrance exam in 2023 received an academic scholarship.

## WHAT DO OUR PARENTS SAY?

"The faculty and staff go out of their way to see that children are **thriving and succeeding**. The extra help and resources are phenomenal. It is a school that looks at the **individuality of your child** and creates a world of success and accomplishment!"

"SPSL prepares children for a rigorous **college preparatory high school curriculum** and does so in a **safe, loving, and supportive** environment."

"Students are ready to learn and teachers are **eager to engage** with the kids. They incorporate literature and concepts that create **well-rounded thinkers and stewards** to our world."

## COGNIA ACCREDITATION

In 2022, SPSL was accredited by Cognia, which uses research-based standards and evidence-based criteria to evaluate the effectiveness of the entire institution to determine how well the parts work together to meet the needs of every learner.

**325.9** Index of Education Quality score awarded out of a possible 400.

SPSL's Index of Education Quality score well exceeds Cognia's average score of 250-280 awarded to school systems in recent years. According to Cognia, an IEQ of 275 and above indicates a school is engaged in impactful practices ingrained in the culture of system excellence.

## SPECIALS

In addition to their core classes, students attend specials in these areas:

**Pre-K:** Library, Music, P.E.

**K-2nd:** Library, Music, P.E., Computer Lab

**3rd-4th:** Library, Music, P.E., Computer Lab, Spanish

**5th-6th:** Multimedia, Art, Music, P.E., Spanish, Speech and Drama

**7th-8th:** Electives to be chosen from Choir, Art, Multi-Media, Speech and Drama

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT

As the largest Catholic school in Omaha east of 144th Street, SPSL has many resources available to students who need additional academic support.

Here are the ways our students receive the support they need to thrive academically:

- We have **6 resources teachers** on our staff, plus English Learner specialists and special education teachers. 4 of these resource teachers work in the primary level grades, and two work with junior high students in the areas of **reading and math**.
- We partner with **Westside** as our Local Education Agency to provide special education services to our students with teachers from Westside working on our campus.
- SPSL serves **92 students through our EL Program**, from many different backgrounds and cultures.
- We serve **15 students through our Madonna Program** special education partnership.

## STANDARDIZED TESTING

Students at SPSL participate in the STAR assessment three times a year. This test is administered on the computer and parents have access to the scores after each assessment.

These assessments provide teachers with valuable information to help guide their instruction and monitor a student's progress throughout and across years.