

BLENDDED LEARNING

Committed to the belief that all students, no matter their age, can learn and that all students learn differently, Our Lady Star of the Sea School provides an outstanding academic curriculum focused on the needs of each student.

Our teachers employ a unique **Blended Learning Program** that personalizes instruction for visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners alike.

Blended Learning allows each child to experience a combination of mini-lessons, computer-based instruction and practice, and one-on-one time from the teacher. When teachers stand in front of rows of desks and do all the talking themselves, children of varying skills are not able to work ahead or take extra time as they may need. While teachers have always varied their instructional methods, blended learning moves beyond simply giving students options around projects or tasks.

Using technology to assess and monitor growth, students work at their own pace, making sure they fully understand new concepts before moving on. Using the STAR 360 assessment tools which monitor a student's growth and mastery, teachers can quickly adjust instruction based on the student's needs, moving instruction and concepts along if the student is excelling or providing additional instruction in areas where he or she may need more guidance and support.

Teachers still teach specific content in accordance with the curriculum as they always have, but when a student works in a group or on their own using adaptive technologies, the teacher can use the additional time to give struggling students, students on grade-level, and students who need a greater challenge, the individualized instruction they need.

Students take quarterly assessments to provide an indication of where they are performing on their literacy journey. Students are grouped according to their reading level and these groupings change as students learn. While students are in homeroom by traditional grade levels, their reading grouping allows them to move across grade levels if needed to ensure that they are always in an environment that is challenging them and giving them the skills to progress. The regular assessment also means that you as the parent receive much more feedback on your child's individual progress.

Our teachers are committed to the belief that all children can learn. By designing instruction in a way that allows each student to use his or her strengths, the blended learning program at OLSS fulfills the Catholic tradition of equity and justice and allows each student to reach his or her God-given potential.