

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT ACADEMY

GENERAL INFORMATION AND OTHER PROGRAMS

School Hours: St. Gregory the Great Academy daily schedule is from 8:05 am to 2:30 pm for Grades K - 8. Supervision for students K through 8 begins at 7:20am. Preschool classes are either morning only (7:30am – 11:30am) or full day (7:30am – 3:00pm).

Extended Day Program: St. Gregory the Great Academy offers an Extended Day Program (EDP) available to all families enrolled in the school for an hourly rate from 2:30 – 6:00 pm. The EDP provides a safe, caring environment for Academy students in grades Preschool through Eighth Grade whose parents have registered them for the program and scheduled their attendance. Participants enjoy outdoor play (weather permitting), games, storytelling, arts and crafts and more. Several special events are held throughout the year.

Special Services: The Academy offers many student support services, including Child Study Team Referral and Evaluation services provided under New Jersey Chapter 193, a Resource Room for Language Arts remediation and dyslexia support in Grades K-4 funded by the Academy, Compensatory Education provided under New Jersey Chapter 192, Supplementary Instruction provided under New Jersey Chapter 193, Speech and Language services provided under New Jersey Chapter 193, Occupational Therapy provided by the Academy, In-Class Support Teachers provided by federal IDEIA funding, and counseling services provided by the Academy Counselor.

Summer Camp: St. Gregory the Great Academy operates a Summer Camp facilitated by the EDP staff. The camp operates from the end of school in June to mid-August. It is offered for children entering Preschool through Fourth Grade. A variety of special activities are available and advance registration is required.

Extra-Curricular Activities: St. Gregory the Great Academy believes in the development of the whole child. As a result of this belief, the Academy offers the following after school activities: Tech Team, Book Club, Crusader Service Club, Garden Club, Scouts, Coding and Photography Club, and STEM Club.

STEM Program: Living in the world today requires interaction with technology on a daily basis, and is often necessary to complete the most basic tasks of everyday life. In addition, it is necessary to have more than a basic understanding of mathematics and science to make informed decisions, which affect both the local and global communities. Thus, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education is an increasingly important aspect of education. The STEM Program helps students to solve complex problems and address real world situations using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Music & Drama Program: St. Gregory the Great offers a robust music and drama program. Offerings include a chamber choir for middle school students. The choir performs in a yearly concert and several school Masses. There is also a Spring Musical produced each year.

Sports: Our school offers many opportunities for our students to enjoy competitive games and sports. These parish-based CYO-sponsored activities foster school spirit, sportsmanship and loyalty. The sports programs vary by year based on interest, but usually include basketball, soccer, track and field, softball (girls) and cheerleading (girls).



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EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

PRESCHOOL THREE, PRESCHOOL FOUR, KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE

- Each classroom in the Early Childhood Center is staffed with a teacher, and a teacher's assistant is allotted where enrollment dictates.
- The Preschool classes offer two options – a half day session from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM and a full day session from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Children must be age 3 by September 30th to be eligible for the Preschool 3 class and age 4 as of September 30th to be eligible for the Preschool 4 class.
- The Preschool classes offer drop off beginning at 7:30 AM and these students are eligible for the Extended Day Program until 6:00 PM.
- The Preschool classes have each of the following Co-curricular classes scheduled once per week: Art, Spanish, Music, and Physical Education. These classes are generally scheduled on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; individual participation will depend on the Preschool schedule selected.
- St. Gregory the Great has Kindergarten classes with a maximum enrollment of 22 students. It offers a full day session only from 8:05 AM to 2:30 PM. Children must be age 5 as of September 30th to be eligible for enrollment.
- The Kindergarten program implements the current guidelines developed under the direction of the Department of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Trenton. Teachers strengthen skills of the kindergarten child through developmentally appropriate activities for the various learning styles and individual abilities of the students.
- Preschool through Grade 3 currently have a cluster of iPads for use during appropriate classroom instructions, such as Center Time. In today's digital world, classroom usage of technology to augment student learning, increase engagement, and enhance higher level thinking skills is critical. St. Gregory the Great Academy is on the forefront of implementing technologies that will deliver a long-term academic advantage to its students.
- Students in Kindergarten and 1st Grade explore rhythm, harmony, melody and dynamics through song, dance, instrument playing, and skits through a weekly music class.
- For physical education, students learn the fundamentals of rhythmic movements, creative play, dance, body imagery, and locomotor, manipulative, and non-manipulative skills, which help to develop fine and gross motor movement in weekly classes.
- St. Gregory the Great Academy introduces student to the Spanish language with a focus on listening and speaking skills beginning in Preschool.
- Students in Kindergarten and First Grade have each of the following Co-curricular classes scheduled once per week: Art, Spanish, Music, Physical Education, Library, Technology, and STEM/Science Lab.
- St. Gregory the Great Academy employs two full-time Resource Room teachers who plan and implement alternative reading and writing programs for qualifying students in Kindergarten and First Grade. The Resource Room covers the same essential Language Arts curriculum at each grade level as instruction in the regular classroom does, but does so using alternative methods in small student groupings. The Orton-Gillingham and Wilson programs are used, and taught by teachers trained in these programs. This program supports students with dyslexia.



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LOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GRADES 2, 3, & 4

- All classes have daily religion instruction. Students in second grade prepare for and receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. Students receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly once they receive these sacraments for the first time in Grade Two. Adoration with Solemn Benediction, Stations of the Cross, the May Crowning, and the Advent Jesse Tree are part of the prayer life of the entire Academy.
- Students will explore rhythm, harmony, melody and dynamics through song, dance, instrument playing, and skits through weekly music class.
- For physical education, students learn the fundamentals of rhythmic movements, creative play, dance, body imagery, and locomotor, manipulative and non-manipulative skills, which help develop fine and gross motor movement in weekly classes.
- For students in Grades 2 and 3, St. Gregory the Great continues the introduction of the Spanish language with a focus on listening speaking skills. Students in Grade 4 advance in language development, adding the reading and writing components of Spanish.
- Students have a regularly scheduled library period, instructing them in library and research skills. This class incorporates the standards found in the Language Arts curriculum, as well as supplementary materials.
- All Students in grades 4 through 8 have an account in the Academy's Google domain. This account enables the students to collaborate on assignments electronically, submit assignments and receive teacher feedback electronically, and utilize a closed email system to share assignments. As textbooks come up for refreshment/replacement, some physical books have been replaced with electronic books in the grades where Chromebooks are implemented on a one-on-one basis.
- St. Gregory the Great Academy employs two full-time Resource Room teachers who plan and implement alternative reading and writing programs for qualifying students in Grade 2 through 4. The Resource Room covers the same essential Language Arts curriculum at each grade level as instruction in the regular classroom does, but does so using alternative methods in small student groupings. The Orton-Gillingham and Wilson programs are used, and taught by teachers trained in these programs. This program supports students with dyslexia.



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MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADES 5, 6, 7, & 8

- All classes have daily religion instruction. Students in the Grade 8 prepare for and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Students receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly. Adoration with Solemn Benediction, Stations of the Cross, the May Crowning, and the Advent Jesse Tree are part of the prayer life of the entire Academy.
- Advanced/Accelerated Mathematics is offered in Grades 5 through 8 to those students who qualify with report card grades, placement test scores, and standardized test scores in the placement matrix.
- The Middle School is at the forefront of technology. Our students currently utilize Google Chromebooks in class and at home on a one-on-one basis. Students use the Chromebooks for research, homework, and emailing teachers to communicate on assignments. The addition of the Chromebooks is part of the Academy's Technology Vision, which aims to equip students with the tools that they will use throughout the remainder of the educational careers and into their professional careers.
- All students in Grades 4 through 8 have an account in the Academy's Google domain. This account enables students to collaborate on assignments. As textbooks come up for refreshment/replacement, the physical books will be replaced with electronic books in the grades where Chromebooks are implemented.
- Students further enhance their musical intelligence in the areas of music theory, music appreciation and the history of music and drama through weekly music classes.
- For physical education, the weekly classes begin to incorporate fundamental skills in team sports activities. In all of the grade levels, the spirit of good sportsmanship is stressed.
- Students in Grade 5 continue to advance in language development, adding the reading and writing components of Spanish. Also beginning in Grade 5, students embark on a three-year course of study equivalent to a high school level Spanish I course.
- Students have regularly scheduled Research Skills class to supplement the research and writing skills that are covered in Integrated Language Arts.
- Students in Grades 5 and 6 take Chinese once per week and students in Grades 7 and 8 take Latin once per week, in addition to the weekly Spanish class for Grades 5 - 8.



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