



St. Paul Catholic School
1900 12th Street North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704
Deeply Rooted in Knowledge, Faith, and Family, Since 1930

Mrs. Rose Smoot
Principal

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Assistant Principal

Mrs. Smoot shares feedback on student groupings in classes.

The results of our recent survey indicate that parents believe their children are receiving a great academic and religious education. Thank you for this positive feedback. Some parents mentioned that they would be in favor of smaller class sizes. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the positives that make our class size manageable and productive.

Teachers in EC 3, 4, K and grade 1 have full time (7:30-3:30) teacher assistants and on most days, classroom volunteers. Teachers in grades 2-8 have part time teacher assistants with classroom volunteers. The teacher assistants and volunteers, under the direction of the teacher, engage the students in small reading or math groups. Students in need of remedial reading or math, are given such by our resource teacher as well as the Title One Teacher.

Middle School classes are divided so that the math, science, computer, art, and music, are half classes. This means that in each of the above classes (grades 6-8) the teachers have 15 to 17 students.

Our teachers have excellent classroom management. An example of one of their many strategies is to conduct an introduction to their lesson and then divide the students into 3 or 4 smaller groups. It is at this point where the teacher assistants work with children in small groups. With supervision, some students work independently at this time. This strategy makes it possible for the teacher to access the work being done in each group. Another strategy is "Ask 3 before me". This means the students ask questions of 3 peers or the teacher assistant. Students still not understanding the concept or question will then ask the teacher. These are just a few of the strategies which our teachers have been trained to incorporate in their classes.

Another positive in classroom management is the behavior of our students. Teachers are not spending instruction time disciplining students.

Do we wish we had more class space? Yes, we do. However, we realize that this is not a possibility given the structure of the building. Therefore we have developed professional strategies for effective teaching and classroom management, such as the policy in Middle School of teaching many of the subjects in half-size groupings.