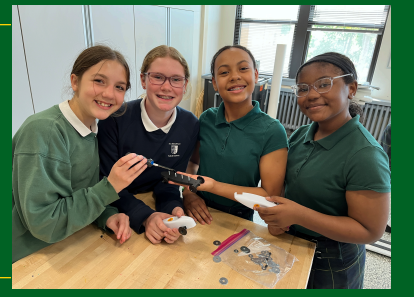


excellence IN EDUCATION



In 2023, St. Sebastian Parish School was selected by the U.S. Department of Education as a **National Blue Ribbon School**. Only 40 private schools were chosen out of the 353 schools in the United States to receive this honor for overall academic excellence and exemplary teaching. Our parish school is proud to be among the list of schools to receive this honor. Please read more about what St. Sebastian Parish School offers our students.

Technology

Technology has been a continued focus of St. Sebastian Parish School during the recent years. Our students have the latest technology at their fingertips. Students have daily access to over 50 iPads, 350 Chromebooks, and laptops to assist with their learning. Our school's 1:1 Chromebook Initiative provides all students in grades 1- 8 with a Chromebook laptop computer. This leads to an overall enhanced educational experience, better student organizational skills, and learning and sharing beyond the walls of the conventional classroom. It allows greater accessibility to technology while preparing students for an ever-changing world, removes the need to schedule computer lab time or share mobile carts, and creates a sense of responsibility through personal ownership. Moreover, our 1:1 initiative makes learning available at our students' fingertips and enables teachers to easily track both student progress and needs for further instruction.

We have interactive display boards that transform every classroom into collaborative learning spaces and each classroom is equipped with a Beam audio device. These small portable sound bars are enabled with Bluetooth technology that links with microphones that are worn by teachers and allow students to hear lessons more clearly. Classrooms are also equipped with HoverCams. These document cameras allow teachers to assist students in the classrooms when doing science experiments, showing work with math manipulatives and sharing worksheets. There are newer lab tables in the 7th and 8th grade science classrooms which complement our state-of- the-art science facilities. Every student has the additional benefit of utilizing the technology in our Technology Learning Lab with its green screen and 3D printing technology. In 2020, new built in storage units were added to classrooms along with new student desks and chairs and additional lockers in the hallways. These investments have helped with organization and improvements to classroom functionality. The school also points with pride to our newly remodeled library that includes an updated layout, new tables and seating areas, improved teacher space, and a smart board/ screen for presentations. Our library is now a collaborative space not just for reading, but where every student, from pre-school through junior high can learn and explore.

Science Technology Religion Engineering Arts and Math (STREAM) Education

St. Sebastian Parish School is STEM designated from the State of Ohio and recently launched a STREAM education initiative that focuses on hands-on experiences where students are active participants in the learning process that also incorporates service learning. This type of learning helps students learn skills of communication, collaboration and cooperation, creativity and innovation, and critical thinking and problem solving. Student-centered instructional strategies enhance students' learning, achievement and retention and STREAM education helps students appreciate the connections between these individual disciplines and demonstrates that problem solving involves researching, collecting, and analyzing various types of information. These are vital skills that will help students prepare for their academic and professional futures that are becoming increasingly reliant on technology while also learning critical communication skills.

Our STREAM initiative involves both classroom activities and extra-curricular opportunities and our teachers are designing and implementing STREAM lessons that allow students to discover, assemble and interpret information. Extracurricular activities like Coding, MATHCOUNTS, Lego Club, Robotics and Drone Club provide avenues for students to experience STREAM topics beyond the curriculum.

Innovation Lab

Our school's Innovation Lab was built in the summer of 2017. This lab has become a hub for student-centered, STREAM-based collaboration where students are challenged to be creative, take risks, experiment, prototype, and let their curiosity guide their discovery. In the lab, you can find students programming robots, flying drones, building Soap Box Derby cars in preparation for the Gravity Racing Challenge, preparing for the Genius Project as well as analyzing data and new ideas on the large interactive display board and even building on the Lego wall.



Safety & Security Upgrades

Recently, the school completed the construction of a new main entrance to the school from the Mull Avenue side. There is now a lobby area inside the exterior doors. The lobby area was created by installing a second set of locked doors just inside the existing doors. All visitors will enter through the original exterior doors, then can buzz the main office for admittance to the school, or they can use the new drop off bin.

The school has also upgraded their access control system to allow for greater security regarding who has access to each door on campus. Security cameras were installed at Byrider Hall and several other campus cameras and a server were upgraded for better visibility throughout campus.

Finally, safety experts agree that the safest place in times of emergency is in the classroom. Our school now has HAVEN Lockdown devices on all of the classroom doors. Now the doors have the added security feature of a lockdown device that teachers can activate to lock the door in seconds.