**Mission**

An educational ministry of St John the Baptist Church, Notre Dame School is proud to serve families of Chico and its surrounding communities. Notre Dame students are empowered with Gospel values, Catholic vision, and academic excellence, which lead them to fulfill their unique vocation within the security of a faithful family community. Encouraged and supported by the students’ families and also by others who comprise our community of faith, Notre Dame School serves to create a Catholic Christian atmosphere in which each individual child is nurtured to achieve her/his full potential. Our primary goal is to guide our students toward an understanding that learning is a life-long process. The center of this process is to live a JOYful life; knowing, loving and serving Jesus, Others and Yourself.

**Faith Formation**

The holistic development of children is rooted in religious formation. This process starts early in a child’s life under the guidance of parents, and is nurtured by our school. Worship is an essential aspect of spiritual fulfillment and is at the core of our Catholic identity at Notre Dame. Throughout the school year, we actively encourage students to deepen their relationships with God through religious education, prayer, and reflection. Every morning, Notre Dame students and staff assemble to pray, recite the pledge of allegiance, and hear special announcements. Students participate in Living Rosaries, Eucharistic Adoration, and attend monthly Sacramental Confessions (grades 3-8). They also lead Holy Week re-enactments of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, and Stations of the Cross. Our children plan and participate in weekly school-wide mass as lectors, altar servers, gift bearers, choral singers, and as a community of witnesses to God’s love for us. It is expected that our children contribute their time and talents to the community through Christian service. When they perform God’s corporal works of mercy, students strengthen their spirituality and have the opportunity to offer hope and mercy to every member of God’s Kingdom.
Continuing our tradition of academic excellence, Notre Dame offers a competitive curriculum that is aligned with Diocesan and state standards. Our academic program captures the interest of our students, challenging them to apply their critical thinking skills creatively in order to uncover new possibilities. This approach to education prepares young learners to rise up to the complex challenges that shape our ever-changing world. We believe that to educate a student in the image of God, we must instruct the whole child intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. The learning experience does not begin and end inside of the classroom. In fact, children are happiest and perform best when they can freely express themselves and engage their passions. Notre Dame honors all domains of child development by offering a wide selection of enrichment activities in art, music, language, technology and athletics. Our arts curriculum incorporates the key components of music education: listening, creating, performing and movement, in addition to studying historical and cultural context. Students in all grade levels receive instruction two to three times per week. Students create visual art using portraits, landscape paintings, perspective drawing, realistic, impressionistic and abstract styles. We display more than 400 pieces of their original artwork at our annual Fine Arts Night. Notre Dame children are also involved in flag football, basketball, volleyball, and track and field. In these collaborative settings students enjoy time with friends, learn the importance of collaboration, and build character in a social environment while they can nurture their passions.
The following graphs compare the student test scores of Notre Dame School to those of its neighboring public schools. Notre Dame students are given STAR Math and STAR Reading Assessments from Renaissance Learning, whereas California public school students are required to take the Smarter Balanced exam under the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) system. The comparison of these separate tests is made possible by the application of psychometric equivalencies, which standardize the criteria used to evaluate and score these different academic assessments. The tables below display grade-level learning data based on both Renaissance STAR and CAASPP student testing results.

Notre Dame's strong **Mathematics** program equips students with the skills to be competitive with their grade-level peers in their home District, as well as those across the nation.

In achieving outstanding class averages, our elementary students **consistently outscore** the **Reading Proficiency** averages of their local peers!
We are proud of our middle school students whose high Reading Proficiency averages outshined those of their peers in local public schools!

Graduating from Notre Dame on a high note, the Class of 2017, as a whole, earned a staggering average of 87% on their Mathematics Proficiency Assessment!

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(1) Based on 2016-2017 Notre Dame School (Chico) STAR Reading and STAR Math testing data obtained from © 2017 Renaissance Learning, Inc. All rights reserved.

(2) Based on 2016 CAASPP Smarter Balanced test results of select public schools in Chico Unified School District. Testing results are publicly available online via the California Department of Education: http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/.
Financial information for the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years is presented above. Note the significant difference between the Cost to Educate per Student and the First Child Parishioner Tuition Rate. The disparity between these figures is striking for the 2017-18 school year where the deficit is estimated to be $160 per student.

When comparing the Estimated Deficit per Student to K-8 Enrollment for each period, the data depicts a high correlation between student enrollment, estimated deficit values per student and fundraising needs. These correlational relationships illustrate that strong enrollment numbers are necessary to mitigate the gaps between student tuition and education costs.
Community Involvement and Fundraising

Because Notre Dame tuition is less than the cost to educate, we count on your continued fundraising support to provide the best learning experience for our children. Our most popular events are the Fall Festival and Spring Gala. We look forward to these occasions every year, as they are wonderful opportunities for the community to fundraise while celebrating fellowship and supporting the mission of Notre Dame to educate minds and inspire spirits. Proceeds from these, and all other fundraising opportunities, help pay for expenses that tuition does not cover.

It is also expected that families will be involved on a voluntary basis to provide services that benefit the school. Family participation in our Scrip and volunteer programs is invaluable because it helps us lower operating costs and enhance the educational experience for our children. We extend families the option of need-based financial aid. On average, Notre Dame families receive approximately $190,000 in tuition assistance each year. We appreciate and honor the sacrifices of all families who believe in the value of a Catholic School education, and trust us as their partner in education. Your ongoing support demonstrates a strong sense of community; and that is what separates Notre Dame from other educational environments.
At Notre Dame, we seek to educate the whole child in a liturgical environment by providing a contemporary, well-rounded curriculum that integrates stellar academics and Catholic values. Our students learn in a nurturing environment where they can further enhance not only their knowledge, but also their sense of self-worth. The care and attention our teaching staff gives to students helps them develop confidence in themselves and in their ability to excel in their studies. Notre Dame is grateful for your continued involvement in our school and community events. The love and the ongoing support shown to us by our Notre Dame families helps keep the mission of Catholic education alive and strong. For the opportunity to educate and inspire the Children of God, we are truly blessed.

Closing Remarks