



SAINT BERNARD'S
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
— Founded in 1886 —

St. Bernard's Elementary School's Literacy Program

STB recognizes that reading instruction is the foundation of all academic skills; being a proficient reader has an impact on a student's entire education in every academic area. St. Bernard's Elementary School *never* moved away from the phonemic basis for the teaching of reading. STB has fully embraced the current philosophy of reading instruction referred to as *Structured Literacy*, an approach to teaching reading that is based on the *Science of Reading*. The *Science of Reading* identifies five essential components for comprehensive reading instruction; *Structured Literacy* incorporates all five components into their lessons.

- ✓ Phonemic Awareness
- ✓ Phonics
- ✓ Fluency
- ✓ Vocabulary
- ✓ Comprehension

All of the programs adopted by STB incorporate recommended multi-sensory instructional techniques and support instruction that is explicit, sequential, systematic, prescriptive, diagnostic, and cumulative. Instruction is assessment-driven. The diagnostic aspect of the *Science of Reading* requires benchmarking and continued progress monitoring to measure outcomes and guide differentiation of instruction.

Our Reading teachers have completed the *Comprehensive Orton-Gillingham Plus Virtual* course; our Early Childhood teachers have completed the *Introduction to Wilson Reading* course. Our Kindergarten teacher has completed training to fully implement the *Foundations* Kindergarten curriculum and has years of classroom experience teaching *Foundations*.

Pre-K Literacy awareness begins in STB's Pre-K program where students are introduced to upper case letters, letter sounds, learn how to hold their pencil correctly and practice accurate formation of letters using the *Foundations* method. Lessons are engaging and employ a multisensory approach to instruction.





Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grade 1

Hegarty Phonemic Awareness This supplemental program provides 35 weeks of daily systematic phonological and phonemic awareness lessons which are short (10 to 15 minutes) and engaging which provide all students with consistent and repeated instruction. These lessons support developing students' decoding and encoding skills.

Kindergarten Foundations Foundations® is a Wilson Language program. This is a structured literacy approach, grounded in the *Science of Reading*, to make learning to read fun while laying the groundwork for lifelong literacy. The program's research-based approach and extensive materials allow our Kindergarten teacher to present a carefully structured reading, spelling, and handwriting curriculum using engaging, multisensory techniques.



Grades 1, 2 and 3 Sadlier/Oxford's Phonics

Levels A, B and C STB continues its use of *Sadlier/Oxford's Phonics Levels A, B and C (2009)*. This program provides additional explicit instruction and practice for phonemic awareness, alphabetic knowledge, decoding skills, sound-symbol correspondences, and manipulating and building words with a variety of learning opportunities.

Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Wonders McGraw-Hill 2023 STB adopted *Wonders*, a comprehensive McGraw-Hill reading program for Grades 1 – 5 in 2016. The school updated Grades 1 – 5 materials to the 2023 edition in 2022 to benefit from the program's strengthened emphasis on phonics and writing. *Wonders 2016* was a well-designed, comprehensive literacy curriculum with its primary focus on foundational reading skills in the lower grades – Grade 1 and Grade 2. *Wonders* schematically builds knowledge and vocabulary as students build their reading skills through Grade 5.





Kindergarten to Grade 5 DIBELS 8th

Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills

STB uses DIBELS 8th for Fall, Winter and Spring benchmarking from Kindergarten to Grade 5 to track the progress of all students and to inform instruction. Individual students are progress monitored more frequently based on their educational needs.



Kindergarten to Grade 5 Title 1 *STB is a Title 1 school.* The Title 1 Teacher uses Orton-Gillingham strategies with students one on one or in small groups.

Cursive Handwriting

Grade 1 – 5 Zaner Bloser Handwriting

STB has never stopped direct instruction of students in printing and in cursive writing from Pre-K to Grade 5. Current research supports the value of this instruction as it provides significant support for the mastery of critical reading and writing skills.



All of the programs adopted by STB incorporate recommended multi-sensory instructional techniques and support instruction that is explicit, sequential, systematic, prescriptive, diagnostic, and cumulative. Instruction is assessment-driven. The diagnostic aspect of Structured Literacy requires continued progress monitoring to measure outcomes and guide differentiation.

