

ST. HELEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A World of Opportunities for Your Child

2347 West Augusta Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60622
773.486.1055
www.sthelenchicago.org

Educational Excellence for Nearly a Century

Established in 1914, St. Helen Catholic School provides a coeducational academic program for students ages 3-14. *Chicago* magazine identified it as one of 25 highly recommended nonpublic elementary schools in the Chicago metropolitan area. St. Helen's teachers have received the Cardinal's Award from the Big Shoulders Fund in recognition of their students' outstanding performance on national standardized tests.

Academic Program

Our preschool program is designed in keeping with extensive research indicating that young children learn best through play. Structured and unstructured activities promote children's social, cognitive, language, emotional, and physical development. Basic mathematical concepts (including fractions and space relationships), temperature, time, and monetary values are among the topics explored through hands-on activities and written materials alike. Literacy and language activities are done daily.

Students in grades K-8 receive instruction in a solid core of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Our curriculum nurtures creative, critical, and independent thinking skills as well as self-discipline. St. Helen students consistently perform above the national average on the Terra Nova test, and their scores rise each year: By the time they reach the seventh grade they perform at a tenth-grade level, on average.

Students of all ages receive instruction in foreign language, art, computers, music, physical education, and religion (grades K-8 also attend weekly Mass). Tutoring and counseling are offered on a need basis to promote students' success and self-confidence.

Teachers

St. Helen's dedicated teachers have an average of eight years of classroom experience. More than three-fourths of them have their master's degree. Professional development is ongoing at the graduate-school level. The principal is an adjunct professor in the Graduate School of Education at Dominican University.



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Co-Curricular Activities*

- Ballet and Tap (girls)
- Band
- Basketball
- Chess Club
- Chinese (Mandarin),
French and Spanish
- Drama
- Garden Club
- Hip Hop Dance (boys)
- Piano Lessons
- Running Club
- Science Club
- Service Club
- Soccer
- Student Council
- Tae Kwon Do

*2010-11 school year. Activities vary from year to year depending on parent and faculty leadership.

Facilities

- Wireless internet access throughout building
- Science lab
- Music room
- Gym/theatre/social hall
- Secure outdoor play area
- Large motor skills room for early childhood program

Institutional Partners and Funders

- Archdiocese of Chicago
- Art Institute of Chicago
- Big Shoulders Fund
- Common Threads
- DePaul University
- Dominican University
- Holy Trinity High School
- Jordan Family Sports Foundation
- Language Stars
- Little Linguists
- Loyola University Chicago

Volunteer Groups and Activities

- Athletics Committee
- Bingo
- Christmas Arts and Crafts Fair
- Family-School Association
- St. Helen Festival



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Schedule

Classes are held between 7:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. We also offer before- and after-care from 7 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. and again from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Summer day care is offered in June and July.

Meals

Students may bring a bag lunch from home or participate in the hot lunch program, which offers nutritionally balanced meals. Discounts are available for families who qualify. A cold breakfast is available to students who participate in before-care.

Enrollment

Enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year is 370 students. Our diverse student body includes young people from a broad range of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Nearly 70 percent of St. Helen's students live in the Ukrainian Village, Wicker Park, Bucktown, Humboldt Park and River West neighborhoods, but some come from as far away as Hammond, Indiana, to the southeast and Park Ridge to the northwest. More than 30 zip codes and Catholic parishes are represented.

2011-12 Tuition

For families with at least one child in preschool, the annual rate is \$5,000 for one child; 7,500 for two children; and \$8,900 for three or more children. For families with no children in preschool, the annual rate is \$4,700 for one child; \$7,500 for two children, and \$8,900 for three or more children. The registration fee for new families is \$250. Financial assistance is available for families who qualify.

Monthly before-care costs \$35 per student (\$50 per family). Monthly after-care costs \$150 per student (\$250 per family). The hourly rate is \$4.

Registration

Children entering preschool must be 3 years old by September 1, 2011. Children entering kindergarten must be 5 years old by September 1, 2011.

Individual tours with Principal Marianne Johnson are conducted by appointment. Please call the school office at 773.486.1055 to arrange a date.

