



St. Martin's School

115 South Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

301-990-2441
Fax 301-990-2688
<http://www.smsmd.org>

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. Martin's School. I would like to take this occasion to introduce myself. I am a Sister of the Holy Cross, and I was appointed the Principal of St. Martin's School in July 2005. I have been an Administrator in the Catholic School System in several Dioceses since 1983. I hold an "Advanced Professional Certificate" (Elementary-Middle School Principal- Supervisor) from the State of Maryland. I also hold a Graduate Certificate Leadership in Technology Integration from Johns Hopkins University in addition to my undergraduate and graduate degrees. I am a strong advocate of Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences. We believe that children learn through different modes. It is our responsibility as teachers to integrate various instructional strategies and assessments into the teaching/learning process based on our students strengths and needs as well as the skills that they need to be successful in this 21st Century.

We are aware that at this time of the year many parents are looking for a Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Program and/or another school for their elementary school-aged children. We take this opportunity to invite you to consider St. Martin's School as you explore opportunities for your children. St. Martin's opened a Pre-Kindergarten in September 2009. Should you have a child who will be four years old by September 1, 2010 and/or students entering Grades K-8, we encourage you to consider our academic program. St. Martin's is accredited with the *Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools* and is affiliated with the *Archdiocese of Washington and St. Martin of Tours Church*. St. Martin's was established in 1925 and is the oldest Catholic School in Montgomery County.



Teaching students in the Digital Age is an exciting time to be an educator. The Faculty and the Administration work together to empower the students attending St. Martin's to develop their unique gifts, as well as their full potential, in an atmosphere embedded in the Gospel Values. We realize that our society has changed, and the world, in which we live, is significantly different from that of yesterday. Various types of media and resources are available to support the teaching/learning process from books and newspapers to computers and related technologies. The members of St. Martin's faculty not only teach the traditional subjects such as reading, writing, and math, but they also emphasize the sciences, the integration of various forms of technology and a new set of skills for the 21st Century. Please be assured that these subject disciplines and skills are taught in a nurturing and supportive environment.

In our both our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs you will find a comprehensive research-based Reading/Language Arts Program for our students. These innovative programs offer a wealth of high quality literature to engage the young learner. Explicit instruction and ample practice ensure students' growth in reading proficiency. In addition to our Language Arts Program Pre-K-Grade 8, Math and Science as well as Religion, the integration of Learning Centers, and Technology play an important part in our students' learning experiences (Pre-K- Grade 8).

Margaret Mead, the distinguished anthropologist, once said: "We are now at a point where we must educate our children in what no one knew yesterday, and prepare our schools for what no one knows yet." I believe that this is a very powerful statement. Because of the vast amount of information available through the various forms of media, educators cannot possibly teach everything on a particular topic. It remains incumbent upon our teachers to teach students *how to learn, analyze and evaluate* information. By taking each child's hand and touching each child's heart, we are enabling all our children "***to build the future now***".

We hope that you will seriously consider St. Martin's School for your child's education. I have always considered it a privilege throughout my ministry to assist parents, who are the primary educators of their children. I strongly endorse the Mission of our school which places emphasis on the partnership between home and school. I firmly believe that it is paramount for me to enable the students who attend St. Martin's to become competent life-long learners, who will provide responsible, moral, and global leadership now and in the future.

Please note that students entering Pre-Kindergarten must be 4 years old by September 1, 2010 and students entering Kindergarten must be 5 years old by September 1, 2010.

Thank you for visiting St. Martin of Tours School. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 301-990-2441 ext 215. We also encourage you to visit our website. – www.smsmd.org



Gratefully,

Sister Sharon

Sister Sharon Ann Mihm, CSC
Principal