



St. Martin's School

115 South Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

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

Dear Prospective Parents,

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 Principal Certification in North Carolina and Virginia. I am a strong advocate of Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences, and a fervent believer that various forms of technology should be integrated across all curricular areas.

St. Martin's was established in 1925, and thus holds the distinction as being the first Catholic School established in Montgomery County. Our School is accredited with the *Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools* and is affiliated with the *Archdiocese of Washington and St. Martin of Tours Parish*.

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 stress the sciences, the integration of various forms of technology and a new set of skills for the 21st Century. These subject disciplines and skills are taught in a nurturing and supportive environment.

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" and also "how to analyze and evaluate information". By taking each child's hand and touching each child's heart, we are striving to enable all our children "to build the future now".



Recently, St. Martin's initiated a comprehensive research-based Reading/Language Arts Program for the students in Grades Kindergarten – Grade 5. This innovative program offers a wealth of high quality literature to engage young learners. We have also recently initiated a new English series throughout the school, and we have purchased new Math books for our students in our Middle School Program as well as our students in Grades Kindergarten – Grade 2. These new purchases have been ordered from the Textbook Funding Program provided by the State of Maryland as well as from money obtained from the Instructional fees paid by the parents of our students. Because of the generosity of some of our parents as well as the generosity of the Catholic Business Network and some foundations, we have acquired 15 new laptop computers for our Middle School students and 4 interactive SMART Boards. Our recent purchases emphasize the critical and innovative skills that students need today in order to be successful in this 21st Century. I strongly believe that it is paramount for all educators to enable their students to become competent life-long learners, who will provide responsible, moral, and global leadership now and in the future. We assure you that this is our priority here at St. Martin's.

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 emphasizes the partnership between home and school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Gratefully,

Sister Sharon

Sister Sharon Ann Mihm, CSC
Principal