



Guiding the Young Person to Wholeness

A TRADITION OF  
EXCELLENCE

MEETS PROVEN  
INNOVATION

This fall, St. Paul School will become Seattle's newest Catholic blended-learning school, with support from the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE).



### **Are all subjects transitioning to Blended Learning?**

This year, we are focusing on Math and English/Language Arts (ELA). As we gain expertise in blended learning and continue professional development over the next few years, we will gradually expand into other core subjects.

### **How much time will my student spend on the computer each day?**

Our blended learning model is student-centered. Depending on individual student mastery and performance, the time on the computers will vary. Some online work will be individualized and other work will be collaborative with other students. Generally speaking, students are likely to spend about 30 minutes during Math and 30 minutes during ELA using computer based tools.

### **If my student is highly-capable, will he/she ever spend time with the teacher?**

Of course! The computer will never replace the teacher. Rather, the computer programs provide enhanced tools for the teacher to challenge each student in any given subject. *All* students will be engaged with teachers for inquiry, direct instruction, project-based learning, and targeted remediation.

### **What is differentiated instruction?**

Differentiated instruction is another way of saying personalized or individualized instruction. Therefore, your student(s) will receive a customized learning experience created to facilitate mastery of every skill. Students can work more efficiently by progressing at their own pace and achieving mastery before advancing to the next concept, rather than the traditional model of moving through concepts according to a general schedule and potentially advancing without mastery.

### **What is the method of tracking success of the Blended Learning model at St. Paul School?**

Students will be individually assessed within grade level instruction, as well as evaluated for achievement of their annual learning targets as measured by the NWEA standardized test scores. The school-wide goal is for all students to reach mastery of 85% or more of the common core standards in ELA and Math.

### **Will my student be graded if he/she is doing below or above grade level work, but work at his/her pace?**

We will assess students in a variety of ways, which will provide a more complete understanding of each student's achievement. A student's grade will reflect both mastery of specific skills at his/her level as well as mastery of grade-level skills and success on projects and other higher-level thinking activities.

**What does a blended learning classroom look like?**

St. Paul students and teachers will be using a classroom model called the “Station-Rotation Model” next year. In this model, Math and ELA will each have a 90-minute block for instruction. The students will rotate in groups between three stations — one with the teacher, one at the computers, and one in small group work – spending about 30 minutes at each station. After the students have spent 30 minutes doing unique work at each station, that subject’s block is complete.

**How do the teacher instruction, textbooks and the computer programs fit together?**

The teacher, textbooks, and computer programs each serve a distinct purpose in the blended learning model. Each tool/resource used to deliver the content is chosen intentionally because it is the best way to effectively deliver that specific content. Generally, computer programs will be used for delivery and practice of content, textbooks will be used to supplement the material from the computer and the teacher will work on higher-level tasks such as critical-thinking activities, projects and small group work or one-on-one remediation. Using all of these resources together allows each resource’s strengths to be maximized for the students.

**Will the students be divided into the same small groups all year?**

No. The small groups within classes will be very fluid in order to accomplish learning goals. The students may be grouped by ability, learning style, or interest, depending on the activity.

**Can my student access any of the programs from home?**

Yes. Most, if not all, of the programs will be accessible by both parent and child from home on a computer, tablet or smart phone.

**Will I have to buy any hardware for my child?**

No. Any work that requires a computer can be completed in school, either during class or after school, on laptops that the school has purchased for student use. Many of the programs are accessible from internet-enabled devices outside of school, but no child will be required to have a device at home. You will, however, be assessed a \$250 per child technology fee to help fund this initiative at school.

**How will this change our Catholic identity of St. Paul School?**

Initiating this blended learning model will only enhance how we live out our core beliefs as Catholics. “Education is the art of helping young people to completeness; for the Christian, this means education is helping a young person to more like Christ, the model of Christians.”— Blessed Basil Moreau, CSC. This initiative will help each child reach their full potential and prepare them to succeed in high school, college, and beyond.

**What other schools are employing a Blended Learning model successfully in Seattle or nationally?**

Carpe Diem, *Yuma, AZ*                      Mission Dolores Academy, *San Francisco, CA*  
Diocese of San Jose, *San Jose, CA*      Rocketship Education School, *San Jose CA*  
KIPP Academy, *Los Angeles, CA*      St. Therese Academy, *Seattle, WA*

**Links to Blended Learning Articles**

Edudemic: <http://www.edudemic.com/2012/10/what-exactly-is-blended-learning/>  
Edutopia: <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/blended-learning-getting-started-lisa-dabbs>  
Seattle Times:  
[http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2021029807\\_stpaulblendedlearningxml.html](http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2021029807_stpaulblendedlearningxml.html)

**More Questions?**

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