

Saint John Brebeuf Regional Secondary School

Philosophy and Mission

About St. John Brebeuf

Saint Jean de Brebeuf (1593-1649), an important Canadian martyr, was born in Normandy on March 25, 1593. He was ordained a Jesuit priest in 1623, and arrived in New France in 1625. He lived and spread the word of God among the Huron first nations people between Georgian Bay and Lake Huron until forced by the British to return to France in 1629. He returned in 1634 and lived with the Hurons for the next 14 years. The Iroquois captured, tortured and killed Jean de Brebeuf in March of 1649, at what is now Midlands, Ontario. Jean de Brebeuf, along with other Jesuit martyrs, was canonized a saint in the Roman Catholic Church in 1930. His feast day is September 26.

Saint John Brebeuf Regional Secondary School (SJB) is the first Catholic high school in the central Fraser Valley. It is sponsored by, and draws its enrolment largely from seven Roman Catholic Parishes: St Ann's Abbotsford, St. James Abbotsford, Sts. Joachim and Ann, Aldergrove, St. Joseph's Langley, St. Joseph's Mission, St. Mary's Chilliwack and St. Nicholas Langley. SJB began with Grade 8 in portable classroom units in September 1992, and added one grade in each subsequent year until full courses for Grades 8 through 12 became available in 1996. Construction of Phase I of the present SJB school building began in 1993. We began classes in the new building in January, and the official Blessing occurred on March 6, 1994. The addition of Phase II was complete and ready for classes in September 1996, and the official Blessing took place on November 3, 1996. The present capacity of SJB is approximately 400 students. Capacity could be increased to 600 students if needed and the financial abilities of the Parishes are sufficient to warrant a third phase of construction.

SJB is established under the guidelines of the Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA). As such, a local Education Committee made up of two representatives from each of the participating parishes, and three pastors, elected by the seven pastors of the participating parishes, run it. One of these pastors is appointed Archbishop's Representative in the school.

The local Education Committee is responsible for the day-to-day running of the school, delegating responsibility for academic life to the Principal of the school.

The SJB curriculum is designed to meet the standards of the B.C. Ministry of Education in a setting that emphasizes Christian values and respect and love for all of God's creation. Although Catholics are given priority for enrolment at SJB, students of any faith background may be admitted if space permits. The majority of the students attending SJB are from Catholic families, however, we also have full-time students from a variety of foreign countries. We also accept students with special needs. We believe that this

mix of students raises the potential for SJB students to recognize the equality of all of God's children in His eyes, and to mirror that vision in their personal development.

Religion is a required subject in the curriculum of each of Grades 8-12. As our enrolment grows, various electives are added to the curriculum. At present, we have a Band and Art program available for Grades 8 through 12, Drama in Grades 11 and 12, and a Computer program [Information Technology] is available as an elective in all grades. A Foods program is offered for Grades 8 through 11. SJB has a strong intramural athletic program, and does very well for a small, young school.

SJB has a talented and dedicated group of teachers who are competent in their various subject areas and who exemplify Christian values in their roles as educators. Our staff brings a great diversity of educational backgrounds and experiences.

Philosophy and Mission Statement

The philosophy and mission of SJB are embodied in the following statements, which are taken from the Catholic Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese Policy Manual:

The Catholic school shares in the mission of the Church. Two key factors make the Catholic school different:

The Catholic school is filled with the Spirit of Christ. In a Catholic school, God, His Truth and His Life are integrated into each and every aspect of the life of the school. The entire scholastic curriculum is permeated with the Spirit of Christ Jesus. Teachers and other staff work towards this goal by their personal witness.

The Catholic school forms the whole person. Motivated by a Christ-centered vision of humanity and human history, the school promotes the formation of the whole person. Such formation embraces not only intellectual, but also physical, emotional, moral and spiritual dimensions of human growth. Intellect, emotions, creative ability and cultural heritage all have a place in the life of the school. While human knowledge and skills are recognized as precious in themselves, they find their deepest meaning in the context of God's plan for creation.

This broad education prepares students for the challenges of life as adults in our multi-racial, multi-cultural world. Graduates of Catholic schools enter our fast changing society well informed and well rooted in their Christian faith, ready to communicate and work with all of God's children. Committed to ecumenism and interfaith concerns, they can respond to our common call to seek and promote truth and wisdom in service to the human family.