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History of the School

In 1953, the Diocese of Dallas purchased a tract of land (9.79 acres) to use as a site for St. Philip the Apostle Church. On February 26, 1954, Father Patrick Gallagher became its first pastor. Before the present Church and School were built, the parishioners (approximately 235 families) attended Mass at the Urban Park School auditorium, the old Urban Theatre, and a hardware store located on Lovett Street. The parish purchased a residence at 8152 Nelson Drive to serve as a rectory. In 1955, the Church gave this house to the Sisters of the Holy Spirit to serve as their convent and the house at 8178 Nelson became the rectory.

Construction of St. Philip the Apostle School began in 1954 and was completed on September 5, 1955. His Excellency Bishop Thomas K. Gorman dedicated the building on September 18, 1955. The Parish Hall opened on October 1, 1967. In 1969, an annex building joined the parish plant to accommodate the expanding school. It housed a Library and a classroom.

In the summer of 1974, the Church undertook major improvements to the property. The sanctuary was re-designed, carpeting added, and new sanctuary furnishings bought. The new Altar of Resurrection and Baptismal Font were dedicated in loving memory of Father Lucien Burque, who died in March 1976. New lighting, carpeting, and air-conditioning were added to the school. The rectory at 8178 Nelson Drive was sold and construction of a new rectory began in November 1977. Work was completed in June 1979, and the new rectory was blessed by the Most Reverend Bishop Thomas Tschoepe on September 16, 1979.

In September of 1987, a large new wing connected to the east end of the school was completed which included a Cafeteria, Gym, Library, Computer Lab, Science Lab, and additional classrooms. The old parish hall building was turned into a Day Care Center in January 1988, the St. Philip Christian Learning Center. A new parking lot, school principal's office and Sunday Nursery were other improvements added in 1987 and 1988.

The five Sisters of the Holy Spirit were relocated into the old rectory at 8178 Nelson Drive in September 1988, which was reacquired from a parish family. The previous convent at 8152 Nelson Drive was turned into a family residence for the parish maintenance supervisor.

In 1992, the School Council recognized the long time need for additional playground equipment for the parish/school and undertook this project. This was a joint effort on the part of all the parishioners of St. Philip's. They raised \$9,500 to match a grant from the Catholic Foundation.

In May of 1993, the new playground was dedicated in honor of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit who have served St. Philip the Apostle School since it was opened in 1955.

Today, the School serves approximately 144 kindergarten through eighth grade students, the majority of whom come from parish families. Our students reflect the diverse ethnic and racial background of the Church parishioners. Located in Southeast Dallas, the School draws students who would otherwise attend public schools in the Cities of Dallas and Mesquite. The School balances an emphasis on scholarship with religious instruction designed to teach our students to internalize the message of the Gospel through worship, study and personal prayer.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Philip the Apostle Catholic School provides educational opportunities that nurture each student's individual gifts to achieve the intellectual, spiritual, cultural, social and physical development of each student.

PHILOSOPHY

The aim of Christian Education at St. Philip School is to prepare each student to take his/her place in society in a truly Christian manner.

We strive to instill in all faculty members and students that our school is a living Christian Community where each person is treated as a unique individual and is encouraged to reach his/her potential spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, aesthetically, socially, and physically.

SCHOOL GOALS

Our specific goals are, to help each child: find satisfaction in learning, realize that subject matter skills are tools he/she should use in meeting and solving problems, develop self-confidence, think imaginatively, openly explore his/her ideas, free him/herself to explore his/her own resources and to assume the responsibility for his/her own learning.

To achieve these goals, St. Philip the Apostle School sets forth the following objectives:

1. Students will be taught the basic Christian values that helped to develop proper attitudes.

2. Students will be encouraged to develop reverence for themselves as well as for all peoples through Christian daily living.
3. Through worship, study and personal prayer students internalize the message of the Gospels.
4. Students will be made aware of social justice issues in their own lives, in the community and in the world around them seizing upon opportunities as they arise to act according to Christian principles.

The School is dedicated to fostering in each of its students the love of God and of his fellow men as the highest of all virtues. The School desires to awaken and to maintain in each student the sense of responsibility for his and her God-given talents, to develop loyalty and dedication toward family and nation, and to increase self-knowledge and self-discipline in all areas of his and her life.

The policies and rules of the School aim to provide a proper environment for the spiritual, intellectual and physical development of the students. The life of the School should be conducive to the appreciation of Christian and human values, to serious, efficient and enjoyable academic work and to open a sincere communication among all members of the School community.

Disciplinary rules are used for teaching intelligent and cooperative self-discipline that comes from understanding and appreciating the values protected or promoted by the rules. Whenever the student shows a lack of self-discipline, it is necessary to enforce the rules by authority. In all cases, however, guidance is given to help the student develop a conscious and free response.

PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

A student who graduates from St. Philip the Apostle Catholic School will:

1. Have a strong relationship with God and keep God centered in his/her life.
2. Have a strong moral character, take responsibility for one's action, and courage to stand up for social justice issues.
3. Have a well rounded character with a strong work ethic.
4. Have the discipline and endurance to handle life mentally and physically.
5. Be a life-long learner.
6. Have confidence in oneself and one's worth.
7. Be a reason thinker with the flexibility to look at all views.
8. Have an understanding of one's talents and courage to allow those talents to flourish.

ADMINISTRATION

Principal	Mrs. Carol Catalano
School Secretary	Mrs. Ginna Curts
Receptionist	Mrs. Sheila Trevino
School Office	214-381-4973
School Fax	214-381-0466
Parish Administrator	Deacon David Obergfell
Parochial Vicars	Rev. Juan Carlos Franco
	Rev. Anthony Densmore
Church Secretary	Ms. Ashley Curts
Parish Office	214-388-5464