



St. Benedict's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Mission Statement

August 25, 2016

Founded in 1868 and sustained by the monks of Newark Abbey, who are committed to the city by their vow of stability, St. Benedict's Prep is devoted to educating young men from Newark, its surrounding area and beyond. While explicitly dedicated to serving minority youngsters, and those from low-income backgrounds, we welcome students from all racial, religious, and socioeconomic groups to create real diversity. As a monastery school guided by the spiritual principles of the Rule of Benedict, we engage students in the daily practice of a living Christian community: all strive to grow in mutual respect, to work and pray together, and to take responsibility for one another. St. Benedict's students learn to exercise leadership in all aspects of school life. Through a rigorous college prep curriculum and vibrant extracurricular offerings, we develop the mind, stretch the heart, form character, and nourish the spirit. Fortified by a robust counseling program and guidance from caring adults, our students gain the strength and resilience to achieve their goals, often overcoming personal obstacles and challenging backgrounds and the enduring legacy of poverty and racism. St. Benedict's prepares a young man to fulfill his potential as an emotionally mature, morally responsible, well-educated, and confident person, eager to contribute his full range of gifts to his family, community and an ever-changing world.

Belief Statements

August 25, 2016

In all we are and do at St. Benedict's Prep, we are guided by the perspectives and values of our Christian faith, and believe that the primary purpose and meaning of all human activity is its spiritual dimension.

We believe that:

- Each student is an important and irreplaceable child of God with inestimable value, whose uniqueness is to be embraced by the community.
- “Whatever hurts my brother hurts me,” and “Whatever helps my brother helps me.”
- True community is founded on concern for and acceptance of others, self-respect, and a mutual commitment shared by every member of the community.
- Students have the moral responsibility to identify, develop, and use their God-given talents in service to others.
- With practice and mentoring, and in collaboration with adults, students develop strong, active leadership skills and assume substantial responsibilities for the daily life of the school community.
- Students are most successful when they are fully engaged in school programs that challenge both in and out of the classroom; they learn perseverance, the value of hard work, commitment, the ability to deal with frustration and failure as well as success, and the worth of education in and of itself.
- A safe and hospitable environment, in which individual differences are respected, is essential for students to grow and learn.
- Students develop their imagination and creativity through the visual, performing, and literary arts as well as through experiential endeavors in the humanities, mathematics, and science.
- Effective learning begins by meeting students where they are and giving them limitless opportunities to develop their intellect, character, and spirituality.
- Future opportunities are built on the foundation of the students' work today.
- Physical and emotional well-being are essential for a balanced and healthy life.

Profile of Graduates

August 25, 2016

A graduate of St. Benedict's Preparatory School will...

...demonstrate his education by:

- Thinking, reading, and writing critically and communicating effectively;
- Functioning competently and displaying adaptability in an ever-changing technological environment;
- Objectively evaluating scientific data and mathematical information;
- Understanding the importance of history and culture as well as his place in them;
- Mastering a rigorous college preparatory curriculum and developing disciplined work habits and study skills that can be transferred to a college experience and everyday life;
- Nurturing curiosity and maintaining open-mindedness and respect for differing viewpoints;
- Collaborating with and helping others to learn; and
- Pursuing opportunities for lifelong learning.

...exemplify leadership by:

- Acting as an exemplary model of moral conduct;
- Modeling selfless behavior by such practices as listening to and working cooperatively with others;
- Developing group cohesiveness and helping others to work together as a team;
- Motivating others to work up to their potential; and
- Holding himself and others accountable for their behavior and for the correct and timely accomplishment of tasks.

...exhibit strength of character and Christian morality by:

- Assuming responsibility for his actions, taking ownership of his decisions, and accepting the consequences;
- Making decisions that are guided by faith, reason, foresight, fairness and love, regardless of the risks; and
- Living according to the beliefs that "whatever hurts my brother hurts me" and "whatever helps my brother helps me."

...live his religious faith by:

- Understanding and respecting himself as a creature redeemed by God who is called to a personal relationship with God and a life of love and service;
- Demonstrating attitudes and aspirations that are based on the belief that human happiness lies beyond the limits of the created world in the realm of ultimate spiritual and religious experience; and
- Respecting the earth as the sacred home of all God's children.

...reflect a commitment to inclusiveness and a concern for humanity by:

- Appreciating and encouraging diversity;
- Treating all persons and all faiths with respect, compassion, and understanding; and
- Offering help to those who are in need, willingly and regardless of personal convenience.