

MTCES

An Overview

Our History and Location

Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School (MTCES), a 2018 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, is one of only three independent, private Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. A group of 20 families, concerned about the unavailability of Catholic education opportunities in the Butler-Warren, Ohio region, founded the school. In 1998, they opened MTCES in the basement of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Monroe.

In January 2002, MTCES built its permanent home on a 25-acre campus in Liberty Township, and by the fall of 2006, we were offering a complete K-8 program. In order to serve more students, we opened a new academic wing in the Fall of 2016.

As an independent school, Mother Teresa does not receive monetary support from the Archdiocese; however, three local parishes provide tuition subsidies to enrolled parishioners. Local priests provide spiritual support by conducting bi-monthly school masses. A school board and the school's principal/CEO run the school.

Our Future

The completion of the new academic wing in 2016 created space for three classes per grades 1-8 and four classes of kindergarten. Enrollment will increase gradually and reach 675 at full capacity.



Our Mission Statement

Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School is a private Catholic school, founded in the spirit of St. Teresa of Calcutta, which is committed to nurturing the growth of every student--spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially.

Our Statement of Beliefs

Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School was founded on the beliefs of St. Teresa of Calcutta, also called Mother Teresa; a woman who welcomed all, believed in all, and respected all. As such, the statements of beliefs created by the school focus on the environment, not just the academics.

- We believe that lifelong learning is a shared responsibility between students, teachers, parents, and community.
- We believe each child is created in the image of God.
- We believe in integrating technology into instruction to better prepare students for the 21st century.
- We believe in a safe environment where everyone is valued and treated with respect.
- We believe we are called to model the example of Mother Teresa through volunteerism and community service.
- We believe that all instruction and assessment must provide for the diverse needs and abilities of each student.



Our Curriculum

At Mother Teresa, we believe in keeping class sizes small so that students can receive more individualized attention. Mother Teresa is fully recognized by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Our curriculum is based on the Archdiocese's Graded Course of Study, which has been approved by the State of Ohio, Department of Education.

In addition to the Graded Course of Study, we offer music, art, physical education, prayer services, bi-monthly masses, regular field trips, and community service projects.

MTCES is committed to bringing its first-rate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) programming to all students. The school is a 13-year recipient of the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research, and a three-year recipient of the prestigious Harold C. Shaw award for science excellence.

Mother Teresa offers conversational Spanish instruction to all of its students. Pre-Algebra and Algebra are offered to junior high students. A technology curriculum is also offered for children in grades K-8.

Aideen Briggs, Principal

Mrs. Aideen Briggs joined MTCES as Principal, President, and CEO in July 2019. Mrs. Briggs earned a Master's in Educational Leadership from Concordia University in Chicago, a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Harvard University Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Lafayette College in Easton. She taught at Mount Notre Dame High School for 17 years and began her path to administration as the school's English Department Chair from 2008-16. She then served as principal of St. Nicholas Academy, a K-8 school in Reading, Ohio, for three years.





Religious Education

As part of our religious environment, our principal works with the Campus Minister to incorporate the teachings of the Bible into day-to-day activities. MTCES has daily school prayer in the morning and afternoon, bi-monthly masses, and a devotion to the rosary. Students plan and lead both school masses and prayer services. They also serve as lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, servers, and music ministers. During the months of October and May, students pray a decade of the rosary each day, learn about the four mysteries, and participate in an annual May crowning. During Lent, students participate in a school-wide retreat, Seder Meal activity, and Stations of the Cross.

Commitment to Academic Excellence

Mother Teresa is committed to academic excellence. To help all students excel and reach their maximum potential, we offer a wide variety of programs; from specialized one-on-one intervention to extra-curricular academic clubs. MTCES students have incredible opportunities for academic support and growth.

For children with special challenges

Student Success Team

The SST is a school-based problem-solving group that assists teachers with strategies for dealing with learning and behavioral issues. The core team is comprised of the principal, the reading specialists, the speech therapist, intervention specialists and the child's homeroom teacher.

Reading Specialists

The Reading Specialists work closely with the classroom teachers to improve and enhance the reading skills of all levels of readers, from the struggling to the advanced.

Speech Therapist

The Speech Therapist works on a weekly basis with students experiencing problems with pronunciation and expressive language.

Counseling

MTCES has two staff counselors who not only support these teams, but also help deal with issues that arise.

Peer tutoring

Members of the Beta Club (a junior National Honor Society for seventh and eighth graders) provide cost-free tutoring to younger students on a weekly basis.

Enhancements to the core/basic curriculum

Spanish Program

Spanish instruction begins in kindergarten, and the curriculum expands as the children advance. When students reach junior high, Spanish is studied on a level comparable to high school coursework.

Accelerated Math Studies

During seventh and eighth grade, students have the opportunity to embark on an accelerated math skills program that includes the introduction of Pre-Algebra and Algebra.

Math and Reading Support

Teacher aides and parent volunteers, using set materials, work with students on mathematical problem solving, written thought explanation, and reading fluency and comprehension.

Science Fair Program

Students have three opportunities to participate in the annual Science Fair; while participation is mandatory for seventh graders, students in the sixth and eighth grades are also eligible to participate. Local professionals, in the field of science, judge student projects.



Technology

MTCES has a full computer lab and every classroom is equipped with a SMART Board. All students have Technology class once a week. Mother Teresa is a Google School: students have access to the full GSuite of apps—Gmail, Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, etc. All 3rd and 4th grade classrooms have full sets of Chromebooks. Kindergarten through grade two classrooms have access to Chromebooks. The library and intervention classrooms each have five Chromebooks.

MTCES has a 1:1 Chromebook program for grades 5-8. Each student is assigned his/her own school-managed device that is allowed to travel to and from school with them. There is an annual \$100 technology fee for students in those grades to cover the accidental loss policy.

Accelerated Reader Program (ARP)

In grades three and four, students use ARP to build reading comprehension skills. Students select a book, read it, and then take a computer-based quiz based on that book. They receive instant feedback and an immediate score, with information stored for the teacher's reference.





Commitment to Developing the Whole Child

Student Council

The purpose of student council at Mother Teresa is to provide leadership opportunities for students, to give our students a chance to express their opinions and ideas, to create and support school spirit, to develop good citizenship skills, and to make Mother Teresa and our community a better place.

Student council begins as early as fourth grade, when students have an opportunity to run for classroom representative. When they reach the fifth grade, students can run for a student council officer position. These positions include the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and officers of social affairs, spirit, historian, religious affairs, assembly, and at large. Students campaign for their position, and are encouraged to develop a plan that includes slogans, posters, and other elements of the political structure. At the campaign's close, candidates are given the opportunity to give a school-wide speech, explaining their platform and experience.

Students must be in good academic standing and have no more than four detentions in the current school year in order to participate.

Cub Scouts

Mother Teresa charters and supports a growing Cub Scouts program designed for boys who are in kinder-



garten through fifth grade. A student joining the Mother Teresa Cub Scout Pack is assigned to a den with other boys in his grade. Dens meet two to three times a month, and all dens gather with their families for a monthly Pack meeting.

Cub Scouting combines fun with educational activities and lifelong values. It also helps the boys strengthen character, develop good leadership and citizenship, and enhance both mental and physical fitness. In addition, the program provides boys with positive peer groups and tools to shape their future.

American Heritage Girls

Beginning in kindergarten, Mother Teresa girls have the opportunity to participate in the American Heritage Girls. American Heritage Girls is an organization dedicated to the mission of assisting girls in learning about themselves, their community, and their country. The American Heritage Girls was founded in August of 1995 in West Chester, Ohio. It was founded with the love of God, the love of families, and for the love of children. Its mission is to build women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country. The troop is completely dependent on adult volunteers and is always looking for people interested in the scouting experience.



Physical Fitness & Athletics

Students participate in 90 minutes of physical education class per week.

MTCES sponsors athletic teams and cheerleading. The number of sport teams offered is dependent upon the



number of students interested in playing the sport. Over the years, Mother Teresa has offered the following sports:

- Boys basketball, Golden Bears football, and volleyball
- Girls basketball, volleyball, cheerleading
- Coed track & field

Art Class

All students participate in weekly art class. The art classroom is outfitted with a 3D printer and a kiln. MTCES hosts an annual Spring Arts Fair, and every student has a piece of artwork on display throughout the school.

Music Ministry

This service group for students in grades 4-8 leads worship songs during school liturgies. Vocalists and instrumentalists are welcome.

Choir

Available for students in grades 2-8, this vocal ensemble focuses on learning good singing techniques and strong part work.

Band

Beginning in fourth grade, Mother Teresa students have the opportunity to participate in band. As part of the program, students must take private lessons on their instrument of choice with a qualified instructor. Music and parts are often original compositions or custom arrangements to challenge each student at the appropriate level.

Community Service

Following in the footsteps of St. Teresa of Calcutta, students at Mother Teresa participate in the

school's outreach programs. MTCES picks charities or needs each year to support and is annually committed to a number of organizations such as:

- Reach Out Lakota
- Hawthorn Glen Nursing Home
- 7th and 8th grades partnership with an inner-city Hamilton elementary school
- Student Council also chooses different charities to support monthly

RAK & Magnified Giving

Students in the RAK (Random Acts of Kindness) and Magnified Giving Clubs inspire others to spread God's love and participate in community service. Students in grades 3-6 can participate in RAK, carrying out inspirational acts of kindness for the school community and beyond. Junior High students can participate in Magnified Giving; which involves evaluating the benefit of various nonprofit organizations to their community, including volunteering at the nonprofit, and appealing for a charitable grant for a variety of organizations.

Commitment to Family and Volunteerism

We actively promote family involvement in the education process to build communion with the school and within the family. This is the spirit of volunteerism, a spirit that mirrors the selfless attitude of Mother Teresa, in which your child will grow in the full faith and formation of the Catholic Church.

Volunteer Program

Volunteers are a necessity at Mother Teresa to run, maintain, and expand our school while keeping tuition at a minimum. The Volunteer Program provides families with a means of sharing responsibility for the success of our school programs. As part of the Volunteer Program, each family is asked to volunteer a minimum of 30 hours over the year (July 1 to June 30). By monitoring and tracking their own volunteer time, families make sure they meet the 30-hour commitment.



How MTCES Families Support Their School

As an independent, Catholic school, Mother Teresa receives limited financial assistance from the government, Archdiocese, and/or local parishes. Therefore, we are dependent upon the time, talent, and treasure of our community to pay operating expenses, cover debt service, and fund capital expansion, renovation, and maintenance efforts. MTCES has a comprehensive advancement program in place to raise the requisite funds and keep tuition as reasonable as possible.

The foundation of the advancement program is the *Spirit of Mother Teresa Annual Fund*. We ask families to prayerfully consider what they may be able to contribute to the growth of the school and to operating expenses including books and supplies, educational programs, and technology upgrades. While a contribution is not required, it is strongly encouraged.



Mother Teresa understands that each family has a different financial situation and that there are challenges for everyone. MTCES treats pledges and contributions with the strictest of confidence. All we ask is that each family considers what it might be able to contribute to help our school realize its dreams while maintaining a tuition level considerably lower than that of regional independent schools.

General Information

Nondiscriminatory Policy

The governing board of the Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School located at 7197 Mother Teresa Lane in Liberty Township, Ohio, has adopted the following racial nondiscriminatory policies.

“The Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School recruits and admits students of any race, color, or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs, and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational programs and athletics/extracurricular activities. Furthermore, the school is not intended to be an alternative to court or administrative agency ordered, or public school district initiated desegregation. Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnel.”

Extended Care Program

Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School operates an after school care program. This program is designed to ensure quality care for children and operates from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day that school is in session. Only students who are enrolled at Mother Teresa are eligible to attend. A nominal fee is required.



Admissions Policy

Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School is a private, Catholic elementary school supported by tuition and donations. The school strongly supports the parish concept and the importance of a family's commitment to its parish. The school also keeps an active, open, and ongoing relationship with the area parishes to foster and nurture the identity of the Catholic parish. We very much encourage parents to continue to support their respective parish in all regards and as deemed appropriate by their parish.

Students will be admitted in the following order. If classes are filled per criteria below, lottery will be used to fill openings at that level.

1. Current students whose registration is complete, tuition payments are current, and whose family is in compliance with the Family Volunteer Service Contract.
2. Siblings of present students whose families meet criteria 1.
3. New students whose parent, family member, or guardian are currently serving on the Board of Trustees or Full Time Faculty, or who have served as a Board member in the past, as confirmed by the Secretary of the Board.
4. Children who have stayed on the waiting list for the prior school year, have reregistered for the current school year. The waiting list will not be redrawn and the order carries over from the prior year.
5. New students whose immediate family member is an alumni of the school, i.e., whether sibling or parent.
6. New students whose parents, family member, or guardian have demonstrated significant volunteerism and or stewardship and are active members of a Catholic parish as determined by the Board – See Family Volunteerism Section on the next page.
7. New students who are Catholic, not meeting criteria in 6 above.
8. Remaining positions will be filled by lottery.

Sibling status is defined as a new incoming student who is a sibling of a currently enrolled MTCES student. Sibling status is granted only to families who enroll a sibling during the priority enrollment period in January and do not withdraw the older child at a later time. If a new family registers more than one child and only of the child(ren) is accepted, the other child(ren) are not granted sibling status until the following year's enrollment period. Those who are unable to gain admittance may wish to remain on a



waiting list. The order of those placed on the waiting list will also be determined by lottery. Registrations not received by the deadline will be placed on the waiting list in the order they are received.

Family Volunteerism & Active Parishioners

Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School was founded upon the principles of volunteerism including active parish life. As such, this is considered in the admissions policy. We believe that people with a history of active parish life and volunteerism will continue to be involved in their children's education and school. In order to qualify for Criteria 6 in the admission policy, a family must demonstrate that they have provided significant service and/or stewardship to a charitable organization or cause. The Parish and Volunteer Documentation Form must be completed and must include signatures and or appropriate documentation. An admissions committee comprised of staff and Board members will be responsible for evaluating completed applications. All admissions are subject to Board approval.

Waiting List

Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School is a private Catholic school supported solely by tuition and donations. The primary purpose of the school is the education of the children in Butler and Warren Counties and the surrounding communities. Class sizes are limited; therefore, a waiting list may be established.

General Policies

Evidence of qualification at a given grade level should be presented at the time of registration, as per state law. Parent or legal guardian shall present certificates of birth and baptism, as well as custody papers, if relevant, at the time of registration.

New students must present documentation confirming all immunizations prior to the first day of school. Tuition is set annually in December. A \$150 fee is required at registration and applies toward tuition. Tuition is collected by Electronic Funds Transfer and payments are non-refundable. Families have the option of choosing the 10th, 15th, or 20th of the month to have funds withdrawn. Tuition payments can be made in full or in monthly payments beginning in July. If paid in full in July, a \$50 credit is given. In addition, all families are required to participate in the Family Volunteer program. Those families who elect not to volunteer can select the \$600 contribution option.

Registration and Admittance

Registration begins the day of Open House, January 31, 2021 and continues through 3pm on February 26, 2021. Registration forms can be found on the website or picked up at the school office. Completed forms can be mailed to the school or dropped off starting the day of Open House. A written confirmation acknowledging that we have received your application will be sent to your home within two weeks of receiving your registration at the school office. If you do not receive this confirmation within two weeks, please contact the school immediately. Incomplete forms will be returned.

Acceptance is determined at the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees under the guidelines of the Admissions Policy. All families will be notified of their status by March 31, 2021.



MTCES complies with state regulations requiring that all Kindergarten students be five years of age on or before September 30th. Families must complete all paperwork and students must participate in a kindergarten readiness screening.

Transfer Students

Transfer students will be admitted after completing registration, a review of the student's records from previous educational institution(s), and an interview with Administration. All transfer students entering MTCES are placed on probation. Probation lasts a minimum of one trimester and will be reviewed periodically following these guidelines for full admission.

- The student will have no disciplinary incidences involving the student code of conduct.
- The student consistently turns work in on time and fulfills all academic requirements.
- The student maintains acceptable grades and demonstrates progress in academic studies.

