



Academic Year 2023-2024

Dear Parents:

Good Shepherd Catholic School has been bringing a faith-based, academically rigorous program to area students for the past 25 years. The school has grown in “wisdom and grace”. Our graduates are doing well in high school, college, graduate school, and in the work force. Good Shepherd continues to enjoy the reputation of being a safe school, founded on Gospel values, where prayer and academics go hand in hand. Visitors to our school invariably comment on the peaceful atmosphere of the school and the pleasant welcome they receive from students and staff.

*Good Shepherd Catholic School’s Code of Conduct* helps us all to focus on our interactions with each other on a day-to-day basis. Teachers, students, and parents – inspired, we believe, by the Holy Spirit – worked together some years ago to formulate this *Code of Conduct*, which the staff and students say aloud every day at our morning assembly.

*With Jesus as my model and the Holy Spirit as my guide...  
I am kind,  
I respect God’s creation and all it contains,  
I accept responsibility in all I do, and  
I behave in ways which uphold this sanctuary for myself and others.*

Good Shepherd Catholic School offers an opportunity for our youth to receive a quality academic education through which they will see the relevance of a Christian value system in their daily lives, as well as an understanding of the Roman Catholic Faith. The curriculum is standards-based; the school is approved by the Diocese of Burlington and the State of Vermont, and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

The school enjoys, needs, and indeed expects volunteer efforts and support of parents and other friends of Good Shepherd. We ask that, as you consider the benefits that Good Shepherd Catholic School will offer your child(ren), you also consider how you yourself might help the school flourish by volunteering your time and talents in some way in the service of the school. A dedicated Parent/Teacher Group has been invaluable in community-building and fundraising efforts.

I speak on behalf of all of the staff and the School Board when I say that I look forward to working with you and providing your child(ren) with an excellent education. We believe the school’s balance of academics, values, and faith offers an excellent option for you and your family. Thank you for considering Good Shepherd Catholic School as a desirable option for educating your child(ren). We will contact you after we have received your completed application.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Cartularo  
Principal

# **GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

121 Maple Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Phone (802) 751-8223 Fax (802) 751-8111

[www.goodshepherdschoolvt.org](http://www.goodshepherdschoolvt.org)

## **Mission Statement**

Good Shepherd Catholic School prepares students for a life of learning, service, compassion, personal excellence, and faith in God.

## **Academic Program**

Good Shepherd's full Preschool – 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum is available for your perusal in the main office.

## **Extra-Curricular Program**

Good Shepherd offers a variety of extra-curricular programs which include an extended day program, an after-school program, soccer, basketball, and instrumental music lessons, drama, and a winter sports program.

## **Religious Life**

The life of Good Shepherd Catholic School is in essence spiritual. Good Shepherd is dedicated to helping all members of the school community develop their relationships to God and may incorporate the following practices, in addition to daily religious education classes, in the day-to-day and season-to-season life of the school: prayer to open and close each day, a daily period of silence for prayer or reflection, grace before meals, weekly Mass with the faith community at the local church, regular visits to school and classrooms by our priests, devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus, season-appropriate celebrations (for example, Thanksgiving, Advent, Lent, Holy Week), liturgical music, community service projects, presence of sacramentals (for example, crucifixes), teacher/staff retreats, and the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

All students are expected to actively participate in the religious life of the school including daily prayers and attendance at school Mass. Good Shepherd respects the religious traditions of all its students and does not seek to convert to Catholicism those students who are not Catholic. Therefore, Good Shepherd personnel will not proselytize or attempt to convert children of other faith traditions.

## **Philosophy**

Good Shepherd Catholic School adheres to belief in Jesus Christ as the foundation of the entire educational enterprise in a Catholic school, and it recognizes its own role as part of the teaching mission of the Catholic Church. The school regards parents as the primary educators of their children and partners with the school.

Good Shepherd Catholic School recognizes the importance of the development of the whole child. We are committed to provide for the intellectual, spiritual, emotional, and physical growth

of each student in a creative and safe environment. We believe in academic excellence built on a sound framework of moral values; therefore, we use a traditional, value-centered approach to education.

Our instructional goal is to teach the art of learning and inquiry, with measurable results. Therefore, we follow a standards-based curriculum. With a contemporary understanding of child development and modern innovation, various educational methods are employed to insure individual mastery.

Good Shepherd Catholic School promotes quality work through respect for learning, discipline, honesty, and punctuality. We foster academic mastery, esteem through achievement, character development through a well-established moral compass, spiritual growth, and work ethic. It is our expectation that each student of Good Shepherd Catholic School will grow to his or her potential.

### **2023-2024 Tuition**

The cost per pupil for the 2022-23 school year is over \$2,000 more per student than the tuition that we charge. The difference you pay for tuition for each of your children and this per pupil cost must be raised in the course of the fiscal year in order for the school to balance the budget. We ask you to prayerfully consider if you are able to pay the actual cost per pupil or indeed any amount above the tuition we charge.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, tuition for students registered in a Catholic parish receive a subsidy from the Diocese, so the net tuition will be \$5,750 for the first child in a family, \$5,350 for the second who attends at the same time, and \$5,150 for each subsequent child who attends at the same time.

Tuition for other-than-Catholic students will be \$6,600 for the first child in a family, \$6,200 for the second who attends at the same time, and \$6,000 for each subsequent child who attends at the same time.

A non-refundable \$250 seat deposit is required after your child's acceptance to Good Shepherd. This amount will be applied toward the student activities expenses throughout the year. There are three payment options available: An early-payment discount of two percent will be extended to families who make full tuition payment by July 1, 2023; a two-payment plan with half being due by July 1, 2023 and half due by January 5, 2024; or a monthly payment plan using FACTS tuition management system.

### **Refund Policy**

If a student transfers out of Good Shepherd before the end of a semester (half school year), it is expected that payment-in-full for that semester will be/will have been made. The \$250 seat deposit is non-refundable in this circumstance.

No tuition refund is given if a student is required to leave the school due to misconduct.

## **Application Information and Procedures**

Catholic and non-Catholic children are invited to apply to Good Shepherd Catholic School; all students will be admitted on a space-available basis. Good Shepherd will not seek state approval as a special education provider. Nor do we have the resources or personnel to meet the needs of especially challenged children. Thus, Good Shepherd is not an appropriate placement for children with special education needs, extraordinary emotional needs, or who behave in ways which are disruptive to the learning environment of the school.

Application requirements include a completed application form, a \$50 non-refundable application fee, proof of the applicant's medical insurance, and a meeting at the school with the principal and/or teacher, and/or screening as the principal deems appropriate. All children entering kindergarten must be 5 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and all applicants for kindergarten will be screened for readiness.

## **Uniforms**

Good Shepherd students will take pride in how they dress, and it is our experience that uniforms make life simpler and less expensive for our families. It is understood that students will comply with uniform guidelines while in attendance at Good Shepherd. Uniform purchase information is available at Good Shepherd.

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**Application for Grades K-8 Admission to Good Shepherd Catholic School 2023-2024**

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Applicant's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

3. Home Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

5. Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Age \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Town of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

8. Name of Father (or Male Guardian) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Address (if different than applicant's) \_\_\_\_\_

10. Occupation or Position \_\_\_\_\_

11. Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_

12. Work Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

13. E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

14. Name of Mother (or Female Guardian) \_\_\_\_\_

15. Address (if different than applicant's) \_\_\_\_\_

16. Occupation or Position \_\_\_\_\_

17. Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_

18. Work Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

19. E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

20. Student lives with (Check all that apply):

Father \_\_\_\_\_ Stepfather \_\_\_\_\_ Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Stepmother \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

21. Check any that apply:

Father is deceased \_\_\_\_\_ Mother is deceased \_\_\_\_\_ Parents are separated \_\_\_\_\_ Parents are divorced \_\_\_\_\_

22. Date of proposed entrance to Good Shepherd Catholic School \_\_\_\_\_

23. For what grade is your child applying? \_\_\_\_\_

24. Name and telephone number of your child's present school: \_\_\_\_\_

25. Name of present teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

26. Names of other schools attended: \_\_\_\_\_

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27. Does your child have a limiting physical handicap? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
28. Has your child ever been referred for special academic or psychological testing? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
29. Has your child ever received special academic or psychological testing? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
30. Has your child ever received counseling services? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
31. Has your child ever received services such as:
- Occupational therapy? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Physical therapy? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Speech/Language therapy? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Testing and/or treatment for ADD/ADHD? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
32. Has your child ever been tested for a learning disability? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
33. Is your child now, or has he/she ever been, on an IEP or a 504 Plan? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
34. Does your child wear glasses? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
35. Does your child have a hearing problem? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
36. Does your child take medication on a regular basis? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
37. Has your child ever been suspended from school? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
38. Has your child ever been retained or advanced a year? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
39. Does your child have any allergies? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, please enclose details.

40. What other information can you share that might help us at Good Shepherd get to know your child (for example, interests, hobbies, talents, foreign languages, etc.)?

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41. Please list below brothers/sisters of the applicant. (Continue on the reverse side if necessary.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

42. Are you a practicing Catholic registered in a Catholic Church? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes, which church? \_\_\_\_\_

43. My child was baptized at \_\_\_\_\_

44. If your decision to apply to Good Shepherd was the direct result of a referral by a Good Shepherd family please indicate who referred you. \_\_\_\_\_

44. If the applicant is admitted to Good Shepherd Catholic School, is there another name and address that correspondence should be sent?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**AGREEMENT: We agree to the following:**

1. Upon signing this agreement, the parent/guardian of the applicant acknowledges and accepts responsibility for payment of tuition. No tuition refund is given if a student is required to leave the school for misconduct.
2. Good Shepherd Catholic School asks parents of new students to:
  - a. Submit a \$50 non-refundable application fee payable to Good Shepherd Catholic School.
  - b. Submit proof of child's medical insurance.
  - c. Schedule a meeting at the school with the principal and/or teacher, and/or schedule screening as appropriate. The applicant is encouraged to spend a day in the classroom at Good Shepherd.
  - d. Submit a copy of child's birth certificate.
  - e. Submit a copy of child's baptismal certificate.
  - f. Submit a copy of child's immunization record
3. A non-refundable \$250 deposit is required at the time of acceptance. This amount will be deducted from the student's activities expenses incurred throughout the year.
4. If the agreement is accepted and the student enrolled, he/she will adhere to *Good Shepherd Catholic School's Code of Conduct* and abide by all regulations of Good Shepherd Catholic School as stated in the *Parent/Student Handbook*.

**Good Shepherd Catholic School's Code of Conduct**

With Jesus as my model and the Holy Spirit as my guide...

I am kind,

I respect God's creation and all it contains,

I accept responsibility in all I do, and

I behave in ways which uphold this sanctuary for myself and others.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN

Good Shepherd Catholic School admits students of any sex, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its education policies, admission policies, athletic and other school-administered programs.

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**PERMISSION TO RELEASE SCHOOL RECORDS**

For the 2023-2024 School Year

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Student's Name	Present Grade
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I grant permission to: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Present School

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Mailing Address

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City	State	Zip
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to communicate with the administration and/or teacher(s) at Good Shepherd regarding my child and to release to Good Shepherd a copy of my child's school record, including, but not limited to, the following information:

- Official Administrative Record (name, address, birth date, grade level completed, grades, attendance record)
- Standardized Achievement Test Scores
- Teacher and/or Counselor Observations and Comments
- Intelligence and Aptitude Test Scores
- Medical Records - Required by Vermont State Law
- Psychological Testing, Diagnostic, and Evaluation Reports
- Any other information that would affect the student's ability to be successful at Good Shepherd Catholic School. This would include disciplinary and behavioral records.

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Date	Parent's Signature
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Parent: Please sign and submit this form to Good Shepherd.