



## 1. MISSION

### MISSION STATEMENT

**CHRIST IS THE REASON FOR ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL. HE IS THE UNSEEN BUT EVER PRESENT TEACHER IN OUR CLASSES. HE IS THE MODEL OF OUR FACULTY AND THE INSPIRATION OF OUR STUDENTS.** In this spirit-filled, safe and supportive environment, the dedicated faculty of St. Stephen School works closely with families to provide students with a solid academic foundation for their future studies and a solid spiritual foundation, based on the values of the Catholic faith, to last a lifetime. We want our students to catch this Spirit.

### GOVERNANCE

St. Stephen School is part of the Diocese of Worcester School System. As a parish school, St. Stephen School is owned and operated by St. Stephen Church. Employees are parish employees. Budgets and hiring decisions are the responsibility of the principal, school board and ultimately, the pastor. The Superintendent of Schools coordinates educational policy.

### PHILOSOPHY

St. Stephen School strives to provide an excellent academic education. As a Catholic school, we recognize and accept our responsibility to develop the whole child in his/her spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional and social growth. We live this philosophy with parents as partners in the education process by:

#### 1. **Nurturing spiritual and moral development**

The St. Stephen School community is an expression of faith. By example, and through formal instruction, faculty members provide moral and religious training. The students are encouraged to live their faith daily.

#### 2. **Providing tools for intellectual development**

St. Stephen School encourages each student to achieve his/her personal best within the framework of our traditional curriculum. Technology is used to enhance the delivery of this curriculum in the pursuit of life-long learning.

#### 3. **Encouraging emotional and social development**

Students are taught ownership of and responsibility for their actions. They are sensitized to the feelings of others and are called to respond to them. A world filled with peace and justice begins with a child filled with self-worth and the Spirit of Christ's love.

### PURPOSES

- † The students will acquire the skills and attitudes needed to take a responsible place in society, meeting its challenges with beliefs based on Catholic morals, values and insights.
- † The students will learn to process and evaluate information, make judgments and solve problems.
- † The students will grow in the knowledge of Christ and the teachings of the Catholic faith through the education and sacraments of the Church.
- † The students will grow to appreciate themselves as worthwhile and responsible people.
- † The students will learn to respect the gifts, talents and values of other people.

### OBJECTIVES

- † To build self-esteem based on faith and to help the students to recognize themselves as children of God with inherent responsibilities of their baptismal call
- † To encourage each student to achieve his/her personal best in all areas of his/her life
- † To promote an exciting and supportive learning environment that encourages the quest for knowledge
- † To foster within the student a sense of personal responsibility for academic work and for the completion of tasks
- † To instill in students organizational skills and study habits for life-long learning
- † To challenge the student to integrate acquired skills and seek new solutions to problems while using a variety of resources
- † To develop within students the ability to think about and accept appropriate consequences for their behavior
- † To create a Christian environment where students treat each other with respect and kindness, regardless of religion, race or culture
- † To develop within the students an awareness of Christian responsibility towards the community



*The Principal of St. Stephen School reserves the right to amend the handbook for just cause.  
Parents/guardians will be promptly notified in writing if changes are made.*

