

Bishop Leibold School: The Principles That Define Us

1. Bishop Leibold School is founded on Jesus Christ. Jesus inspires and guides every dimension of our school: our philosophy of education, our curriculum, our community life, and our expectations of ourselves and one another. The life in Christ is informed by Sacred Scripture and the teaching and practice of the Catholic Church.
2. Parents are the primary educators of their children. BLS partners with parents in the task of education.
3. BLS also partners with parents in the work of forming children and families to be disciples of Jesus Christ – people who know and practice the Catholic faith, and share it with others to build up the Kingdom of God.
4. BLS believes in educating the whole person, aiming to gradually develop the intellectual, physical, psychological, moral and spiritual dimensions of each student.
5. BLS is a community of students, teachers, parents, administrators and pastors working as a team for the common good of our school community.
6. BLS believes in creating a school environment that is immediately recognizable as Catholic and reflects the atmosphere of family life.
7. BLS believes in hiring teachers that are practicing Catholics who are enthusiastic witnesses for Jesus Christ.
8. BLS believes that Catholicism should permeate all aspects of the BLS experience.
9. BLS believes that the Christian witness of parents, teachers, pastors and other adults in the school community is essential to the formation of our students. How we act - in and out of the classroom - is often more important than what we say.
10. BLS provides a solid religious education based in the knowledge and practice of the Catholic faith. We believe that our partnership with parents in the formation of their children is only fully effective when the Catholic faith is also practiced in the home.

These principles were adopted by the BLS Advisory Board in May of 2008 after consultation with teachers and parents. They are based on the Catholic Church's teaching on Catholic schools and were distilled from a speech entitled *The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools* (see <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-religion/1494937/posts>) by Archbishop J. Michael Miller C.S.B. former head of the Office for Catholic Education at the Vatican.