

**Script for SVMS Video Walkthrough**  
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Thank you for your interest in St. Vincent Martyr School. We are pleased to present this virtual tour of our magnificent building and grounds, and invite you to explore all that we have to offer. You will be impressed with our state-of-the-art facilities, where our students excel in their studies. Of course, a school consists of more than just brick and mortar. Visitors often tell us that they feel an indescribable "something special" when they walk through our doors. We will do our very best to convey this friendly feeling that makes our school such a welcoming community.

Located just steps from the train station in beautiful downtown Madison, New Jersey, we are a modern school with a rich history. St. Vincent Martyr School has educated generations of students since its founding in 1848, and is the oldest Catholic school in the state of New Jersey. While we embrace our longevity and traditions, we have also evolved with the times and continue to thrive. We provide students with the best education possible, using state-of-the-art technology and contemporary teaching methods.

We are fully accredited by the AdvanceED Commission, and have been honored with the prestigious "No Child Left Behind" Blue Ribbon School designation every year since 2005. We are also a S.T.R.E.A.M. school integrating Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Math.

Realizing that all abilities and gifts come from God, the Common Core curriculum challenges all students to achieve personalized academic success. The talents of individual students are nurtured in their cognitive development and creative expression.

Our goal is to provide a Catholic education in which each student encounters the very best learning experiences, spiritually, academically, emotionally and physically, in order that he or she may live a fruitful Christian life.

More than 450 children cross the threshold of the school each day to receive an education that is both rigorous and engaging. Our students reside in more than 20 towns, and hail from more than 25 countries. We welcome students from all faiths.

Our preschool offers two to three classes per grade with an average class size of 15 students. In Kindergarten through 8th grade, our average class size is 20 students with two sections per grade. To ensure personal attention and student support, teachers are assisted by an aide in our preschool through third grade classes.

Our preschool provides a warm and loving environment in which children realize that school is a fun and happy place. This fosters positive interaction with other children and adults. Self-esteem is enhanced through hands-on activities, while play enables children to learn in a comfortable way. Flexibility with all activities allows for individual differences among children, yet sets a predictable routine so that each child feels secure. Above all, students are treated with honesty and respect. We help children become confident, inquisitive and independent learners. Our cheerful and bright classrooms are organized to promote active learning through a balance of child-directed and teacher-directed activities.

Our preschoolers develop intellectual and cognitive abilities, including numerics, literacy and scientific thinking. Children participate in gross-motor and fine-motor activities, art, dramatic play, music, science, sand and water activities, block play and story time. We reinforce the skills of sharing, conversation, listening, independence, conflict resolution, respect for others and working in a group.

In addition, we employ a Montessori method of learning for religious instruction. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd makes the mystery of God concrete for our preschool children.

We offer 2-, 3- and 5-day schedules for preschool, with half-day and full-day options available. Our flexible morning drop-off accommodates busy family schedules and has been a popular option among our parents.

Our philosophy of educating the “whole child” continues as our students transition from preschool to our elementary school. All students in Kindergarten through 8th grade participate in a full school day consisting of core subjects such as history, language arts, mathematics, penmanship, phonics, reading, religion, science, social studies and writing. Their education is further enhanced by special classes not often provided in other schools, such as art, computers, music, library, information literacy, physical education, theatre arts, and world languages, including Spanish and Latin. Supplemental instruction is also available to children who qualify.

The education we provide is top-notch, with our students consistently scoring higher than the national average on standardized tests. We are able to provide such a broad range of core subjects, specialized classes and electives due to our spacious facility. Our building features a large gym with a stage, an abundant library, a music room, an art room, and a cafeteria offering healthy lunches.

A WiFi network and modern computer lab bring learning into the 21st century. All classrooms feature Smart Boards, and iPads and Kindles are also used to enhance lessons. Each middle-school student is equipped with a Chromebook to use at school and at home. Our dedicated S.T.E.M. room facilitates collaboration in the study of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. These 21st-century tools empower teachers to present lessons that will prepare our students to compete successfully in a technological world.

In 2016, we completed a major renovation, improving the existing school and adding nearly 6,000 square feet. Six new classrooms were created to accommodate our growing school enrollment and provide space for the burgeoning middle school. The \$2 million, 2-story addition provides the 6th, 7th and 8th grades with their own area of the school and the opportunity to develop their own distinct middle-school culture.

Our graduates are well-prepared for the rigors of high school. 96% of our students are admitted to their first choice of high schools, and those who choose to attend their local public high schools excel at these large institutions, as well. More than 90% of our graduates continue their education at prestigious private high schools and competitive magnet schools. In the past 3 years alone, our graduates have been awarded more than \$2.5 million in merit-based high-school scholarships.

In addition to the fine education we provide, we offer our students the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular and enrichment activities. We offer 10 different sports clubs and teams, as well as a variety of afterschool enrichment options.

We also have a very active parent community that lends its time and talents to organizations such as the Athletics Committee, the Education Council, and the Home and School Association. These volunteer opportunities allow parents to be involved with their child’s education and become deeply rooted in our school.

What is really at the heart of St. Vincent Martyr School is our sense of community. Lifelong friendships are forged among the students and parents alike. Kindness is emphasized, and can be witnessed on a daily basis within our school. Our community celebrates the achievements of its members, and bands together to support each other in times of need. Our students, faculty and parents strive to make birthday and holiday celebrations

special, and gather together on solemn occasions as well. Whether we are caught up in the fervor of a basketball game, or reverently attending Mass together, we realize that we are part of something larger and wonderful. Over the years many events have become hallowed traditions. Nothing can compare to the excitement of our annual Candy Cane races, nor the sweet patience displayed by our older students as they help their young buddies select gifts at our Christmas Shop. The charitable service projects we engage in during the school year remind us that we are part of the greater community. We seek to develop intelligent, capable, young people, who can find success in higher education, think critically and analytically, act with integrity, honesty and compassion, and become responsible citizens.

Our morning prayer assembly, led by our principal, encourages children to do their best and celebrates their accomplishments. By focusing on God throughout the day, we emphasize not only the need for intellectual achievement, but also spiritual growth and character development. Our school inspires individual responsibility in thinking, being and doing. We are truly the school of choice for families seeking an academically-challenging, faith-based education.

We thank you for exploring our school through this virtual tour and hope to welcome you into our community, which is stronger than ever. Please contact us if you seek additional information or wish to enroll. We look forward to meeting you soon.