

St. Benedict Elementary

Catholic Education Honor Roll Application 2018-2023

- 1. Enter the school's website.** www.stbenedict elementary.com
- 2. What is the school's mission statement?** St. Benedict Elementary strives to cultivate intellectual and moral virtue in pursuit of academic excellence. We seek to provide each student with a foundation for life, rooted in strong intellect, heart and character, formed in a joyful and faithful Catholic environment.
- 3. What is the school's educational philosophy?**

St. Benedict Elementary strives to cultivate intellectual and moral virtue in pursuit of academic excellence. We seek to provide each student with a foundation for life, rooted in strong intellect, heart and character, formed in a joyful and faithful Catholic environment. In the Catholic Tradition The practice of the Catholic faith, as handed down by the Magisterium and articulated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, is integral to all we do at St. Benedict Elementary. Upon the school's opening in 2013, SBE received the blessing of Bishop Walter Edyvean, the Auxiliary Bishop for the West Region of the Archdiocese of Boston. We welcome visits from priests and religious sisters from the diocese and various orders. The Catholic faith is woven through the life of the school, including: Daily Morning prayer Angelus before lunch Religion Class (including preparation for the sacraments in Second grade) First-Friday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation celebrated Traditions throughout the Liturgical year celebrated Virtue-based Character Education Service projects and community outreach Parents as Primary Educators The faculty and staff of St. Benedict Elementary acknowledge the role of parents as the primary educators of their children. That solemn obligation provided the inspiration of those families who founded SBE in 2013. The Board of Directors, Administration, faculty and staff at SBE are deeply honored and take very seriously the trust placed in them as professional educators, chosen by parents to assist them as they fulfill their mission to form their children intellectually, morally, and spiritually. Virtue-based Character Education At St. Benedict Elementary, education empowers students to be the best they can be, the people God designed them to be. Students can truly only excel intellectually if they have learned and put into practice the human virtues that enable them to develop strong moral character—an internal compass the guides them to use their intellectual gifts for the common good. Growth in human virtue alongside instruction and practice of the faith leads to the development of faithful, responsible, considerate and committed people. Each month at St. Benedict Elementary, a school-wide set of virtues is promoted in the curriculum and practiced in our school. The virtues are first defined and explored at a weekly meeting, and then integrated into the curriculum through stories, history, poetry and literature.
- 4. Select the response that describes the "type" of school.** Independent
- 5. In which diocese is the school located?** Archdiocese of Boston
- 6. What is the governing model?** Board of Trustees or Directors

Additional details

7a. How many Board members do you have?	8
7b. How many Board members are Catholic?	8

Professional Staff

8a. What is the total number of full- time (>30 hours) teaching faculty? (Note: The count should include administrators who currently teach.)	12
8b. Percentage of full-time faculty who are practicing Catholics?	92%
8c. What is the total number of part- time faculty (< 30 hours)?	2
8d. Percentage of the part-time faculty who are practicing Catholics?	0

Number of faculty and staff who are:

	Not Available	Full-time (> = 30 hours)	Part-time(<30 hours)
9a. Religious sisters	X	0	0
9b. Religious brothers	X	0	0
9c. Members of the clergy	X	0	0

10. Which of the following are explicitly stated in the school's mission statement, policies, or publications?

The school is a place of encountering God and his love and truth.

The school has Christ as its foundation.

The school is a community united with the Church.

The school is faithful to the Magisterium.

The school provides frequent opportunities for prayer, sacred scripture, and the Church's liturgical and sacramental traditions.

The school engages in the integral formation of the human person - spiritual, intellectual, and physical.

The school presents a Christian worldview of humanity emphasizing the dignity of the human person.

The school transmits culture in the light of faith.

The school prepares students to be instruments of evangelization.

11. Personnel and other policies are consistent with Catholic teachings and the Church's mission for Catholic education. Yes

12. Evaluation of personnel takes into account their commitment to the mission and Catholic identity of the school.

Administrators	Yes
Faculty	Yes
Staff	Yes

13. Additional Information

13a. The Church's mission for Catholic education guides strategic planning and school improvement.	Strongly agree
13b. The school is effective in advancing the Church's mission of evangelization of students.	Strongly agree
13c. The school protects the mission of Catholic education in light of new educational paradigms, consumerist demands, government interference, and threats to religious freedom.	Strongly agree
13d. The school's Catholic identity is prominently featured in marketing materials and publications.	Strongly agree

14. Describe how the school evaluates its institutional commitment to the Church's teaching on the divine mission of Catholic education.

The Headmaster of the school is charged with running every aspect of the school. The Headmaster is evaluated each year by the Board of Trustees. Included in his performance evaluation each year is a determination of whether or not the school has continued to carry on the mission of the Church. Fidelity to the magisterium is a requirement for anyone working at the school. The Board evaluates the Head in regards to that fidelity and the Head evaluates the faculty and staff in the same measure.

15. The school ensures that operations are faithful to the Code of Canon Law, Catechism of the Catholic Church, and other magisterial teachings of the Church.

Yes

16. The school community serves, supports, and participates in the activities of the local church. Strongly agree

17. Describe how the school is united in service to the broader community.

Students participate in service projects at least once a semester. In the fall the school holds a baby shower for a local Crisis Pregnancy Center. At Thanksgiving, students donate items to create baskets for families through the local food pantry and at Christmas students donate warm clothes for families in need. In the spring, our students make cards and Easter baskets for the retired priests at the Regina Cleri Residence in Boston. In addition to active participation in service projects, we make sure that we include all recipients in our prayers throughout the year.

18. School documents reflect Catholic teaching that parents are the primary educators of their children. Yes

19. How are parents invited to participate in a meaningful partnership with the school?

At St. Benedict Elementary School, we firmly believe that parents should be the primary educators of their children. We communicate our school's mission and academic vision as clearly as possible during the admission process and continue to educate parents on our school's philosophy by hosting enrichment nights. School-wide communications and publications, such as our monthly newsletter, also seek to educate and uphold the mission of the school. Our faculty work to ensure that proper communication is maintained between parents and educators by means of weekly correspondences, personal interactions, and bi-annual conferences. The school also encourages participation in parent- led volunteer groups such as our Parent Guild, Room Parents, and in various fundraising committees.

20. The school has policies and procedures to make education accessible to families who share the mission, including large and economically disadvantaged families. Yes

21. The school’s program assists students to develop respect, kindness, mercy, and forgiveness when interacting with each other, parents, school employees, and volunteers. Strongly agree.

22. Does the school have a morality clause or statement that defines expectations for employee behavior to ensure a commitment to Catholic ideals, teachings and principles? Yes

23. The school ensures that employees and volunteers understand and respect the teachings of the Catholic Church and moral demands of the Gospel by demonstrating consistency between personal faith and public behavior. Yes

24. The school ensures all employees are committed to, and participate in, the religious formation of students. Strongly agree

25. How many hours per school year are directed to faculty development which specifically targets the Church’s mission? 10-15

26. Specify the qualifications for faculty involved in the formal catechesis of students.

Teachers involved with formal catechesis of students will be practicing Catholic and have either a degree in Theology from a Catholic university or they will demonstrate a passionate understanding of the Faith in an interview with the Headmaster.

Additional Policies

27a. The school protects Catholic moral norms in the selection of outside service providers and organizations.	Yes
27b. The school protects Catholic moral norms in the approval of student and faculty organizations, associations, and activities.	Yes

28. The school ensures opportunities for students to encounter the Living God through: Select all that apply.

- Recitation of the Rosary
- Devotion to the Sacred Heart
- Devotion to the Immaculate Heart
- Devotion to the Holy Spirit
- First Fridays
- Saint of the Day
- The Feast day of St. Joseph
- The Feast day of Patron Saints
- All Saints/All Souls
- Lenten Activities
- Stations of the Cross
- Advent Prayers
- May Crowning
- Adoration/Benediction
- Litanies
- Novenas
- Daily Prayers for Others
- Personal Prayer
- The Angelus
- St. Michael/Angel Prayers

Spiritual Bouquets
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy
 Sacred Chant
 Holy Medals and Cards
 Special Consecrations to Jesus through Mary

29. Frequency of Mass for students: Weekly - required

30. Availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for students: Monthly

31. Based on the response above, estimate the percentage of the student body who participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. 97

32. The school ensures that liturgies and the Sacrament of Reconciliation follow Church norms. Yes

33. Frequency of Eucharistic Adoration: Monthly

34. Based on the response above, estimate the percentage of the student body who participates in Eucharistic Adoration. 100

35. The school has the Blessed Sacrament reserved and readily available for student visitation. Yes

36. Frequency of prayer:

Start of class	Always
Start of day	Always
Special events	Always
End of day	Always
Performances	Always
Meetings	Always
Meals	Always
Athletic events	Always
School assemblies	Always

37. Describe how the school assists students to ensure experiences in prayer, scripture and sacrament are personal, meaningful, and respectful.

From the moment students of St. Benedict Elementary enter on their first day of school, they learn the Saint Benedict Way: “To be the light of Christ in our prayer, work, and play.” This simple yet meaningful phrase can be found throughout the school in every classroom, and teachers ask that each student takes it to heart, making Christ the center of their lives. This fostering of a personal encounter with Christ provides meaning to the students’ experiences of prayer, scripture, and the sacraments.

Students also begin each day praying the morning offering. The morning offering provides the students with a framework for their day: that everything begins and ends with God. They pray for their own needs and the needs of their peers, and teachers encourage their children to offer personal petitions every day. Students read the Sacred Scriptures in their religion classes and have the opportunity to be lectors at school masses. Weekly mass and monthly adoration and confession provide the students with the sacramental means to deepen this relationship with Our Lord.

Such an environment creates and engenders respect, both from and for the students. Students learn to respect the things relating to God, and the teachers also recognize the need to respect the individual freedom of every child.

38. The school community celebrates when students are initiated into a Sacrament (Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation). Strongly agree

39. The school ensures that opportunities for prayer, liturgy, and sacraments are prioritized on the school calendar and daily schedule. Yes

40. The school ensures that Sacred Scripture is part of the student experience and life of the school. Strongly agree

41. Frequency of student retreats during the school year: (Not applicable for K-8). Annually – required

42. The school offers formational spiritual retreats for students that include the opportunity for: Adoration, Reconciliation, Mass, Extended Silence

43. Spiritual direction is available at school from:

Priest	< 30hr/wk
Religious	Not available
Trained Laity	Not available

44. Describe how the school supports students in a vocation to the religious life?

We welcome priests, religious, deacons, seminarians to our school many times a year. Many of them tell their vocation stories and share with them the details of their ministry. We pray for vocations daily.

45. Theology coursework and participation in liturgies and devotions is expected of students, including non-Catholic. Yes

46. How does the school ensure that students (including non-Catholics) attend required liturgies and participate in the catechetical and spiritual life of the school?

Attendance at weekly Mass and monthly Adoration along with participation in regular daily prayer in each classroom is expected from all students. All students and families are made aware of the school's mission and philosophy prior to acceptance during the admission process. All families accepted into the school community upon completing the admission process are aware of the mission of the school and its aim to teach the Catholic faith through daily religion classes, prayers, dedication to the traditions of the Church, etc. and to remain an authentically Catholic school, which includes celebration of the Sacraments. All students, including non-Catholic students, attend weekly Mass and all are expected to participate in the regular recitation of prayers and hymns.

47. The school provides opportunities for parents to participate in:

Liturgies, Prayer Groups, Adoration/Benediction, School-wide devotions, Service projects

48. Faculty are required to attend religious services when student attendance is mandatory. Yes

49. The school provides opportunities to faculty for spiritual retreats, prayer, and reflection. Strongly agree

50. The school provides opportunities to its governing board for spiritual retreats, prayer, and reflection. Agree

51. What sacred images, icons, artwork, furnishings, or spaces are present in the school? Select all that apply.

Crucifix in each class

Crucifix in hallways

Images, icons or statues of Christ

Images, icons or statues of Our Lady

Images, icons or statues of Saints

Images, icons or statues of Angels

Images of the Divine Mercy

Images of the Sacred Heart

Picture of the Pope
Picture of the Bishop
Scripture quotes
Holy water fonts
Chapel

52. The school assists students to understand the relationship between mind, body, and soul and the importance of spiritual, physical, and mental well-being. Strongly agree

53. How does the school incorporate the Catechism of the Catholic Church and other materials to ensure students understand and appreciate the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church?

Every week students attend mass, encountering the tradition of the sacred liturgy. Each month teachers introduce great works of sacred art and music to students while challenging them to reflect on these masterpieces and use their own time to grow in their faith and praise God through their own schoolwork. The opportunity for monthly adoration and confession provides students with the silence necessary to reflect on their relationship with Jesus Christ and to grow in their love for the Church. Every year at the school, the teachers emphasize the liturgical calendar, observing specific devotions, like praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent or celebrating feast days. Children learn about all of these experiences in religion class, where the text covers topics from the Catechism.

Ultimately, teachers at the school desire to inspire students to be good children of the Church. Teachers study the teachings of the Catechism in a professional development program, and they then transmit these teachings to students by example and pedagogy.

54. The school teaches students respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. Yes

55. How does the school ensure that athletic programs contribute to student growth in Christian virtue?

All school athletic programs work to cultivate Christian virtue among students especially in regards to charity, discipline, and sportsmanship. During weekly gym classes, students participate in activities that allow them to interact and work with other students by forming teams, playing an organized sport, and/or engaging in a physical group activity. They are taught self-respect and respect for others not only in the classroom but on the field as well. Students are encouraged to participate to the best of their ability and to maintain humility and respect in victory and defeat.

56. The school ensures that the visual and performing arts foster integral formation and Christian virtue. Strongly agree

57. The school ensures that expectations for dress, language, music, and dances aid in the development of modesty and Christian virtue. Strongly agree

58. How do student disciplinary policies reflect a commitment to teach virtue?

Every month there is a virtue of the month. For that month students read literature with characters that model, or do not model, that particular virtue. They discuss those virtues in history class, in religion class, and throughout the curriculum. When a student does not meet the expectations of behavior they are given a worksheet in which they describe the virtue that they did not model and/or which virtue would have helped them avoid the occasion for their poor behavior.

59. The school provides for the needs of students with educational, developmental, and physical exceptionalities. Agree

60. The school provides for interdisciplinary instruction that exposes underlying relationships among academic disciplines. Strongly agree

61. How does the school teach students to confront materialism and relativism?

62. The school provides clear and unambiguous instruction in Catholic moral and social teaching. Yes

63. The school teaches responsibility and the right use of freedom. Strongly agree

64. The school informs students of the impact of technology on the development of human virtue, how to use it in healthy, productive ways, and the risks associated with overuse/misuse of social media, cyber-bullying, and pornography. Strongly agree

65. What are the three most important ideals a Catholic school student should learn before graduation from the school?

St. Benedict Elementary students strive “to be the light of Christ in their prayer, work, and play.” The ideals of Catholic education can be summed up in this motto, “The St. Benedict Way,” which we proudly display in every classroom of our school.

Every Catholic school student should develop a prayer life that is both robust and humble. They should have frequent opportunities to pray communally, lifting their hearts toward God alongside their friends and all the holy saints of heaven. Frequent daily prayer, weekly mass, and monthly adoration are just some of the ways we support our students in prayer. We also equip students in their own personal devotions by teaching them the Rosary, examination of conscience, and lectio divina, and by inspiring them to be open, honest, and humble in their walk with God.

In addition to prayer, Catholic school students should also be devoted to learning. Our Lord is the “logos”, so the gifts of faith and reason are equally essential in coming to know and love Him. Elementary students’ most important intellectual work is to enjoy good literature, wherein they learn to love truth and study heroes to emulate. These are just their first steps in a lifelong adventure of reading and contemplation.

Finally, Catholic school students should glorify God in their play. Man was made for happiness, and children’s carefree and lighthearted spirits are naturally receptive to God’s delights. At St. Benedict Elementary, recess is no less valuable than grammar or math class. We believe our graduates should be experts in exploring nature, playing fun games, and telling jokes. Of course, we also nurture their appetites for nobler pleasures such as literature, drama, art, and music. Every aspect of our school is carefully and lovingly designed to help students walk in the St. Benedict Way, joyfully growing in both faith and understanding.

66. Sex education, which is a basic right and duty of parents, must always be carried out under their attentive care. Yes

67. The school ensures that students are able to explain and defend the Catholic faith.

Strongly agree

68. How does the school ensure transmission of Catholic culture that allows for a Christian understanding of the world?

Catholic culture is distinctly liturgical. Our days, weeks, and years follow rhythms of work and rest, fasting and feasting, anticipation and fulfillment. At St. Benedict Elementary, we observe feasts and liturgical seasons with great care and intention. The life of the Church affects everything from our daily lessons and prayers to the decor in our classrooms and common areas. For example, each month a saint is chosen to be our special model and intercessor. During Lenten Fridays classes travel through the school praying the Stations of the Cross. On solemnities, students are given a reprieve from homework so they can rest and celebrate with their families. These are just a few of the many ways we equip our students to enjoy the liturgical traditions of the church.

Catholic culture is also sacramental, so we offer weekly mass and monthly reconciliation at our school. However, that is not the full extent of our faith’s sacramentality. Throughout all of salvation history, God has worked through physical means to impart spiritual grace. Our curriculum teaches students many of the ways that God has redeemed the material world for himself. In history class, our students learn how God prepared the world for the savior through a chosen people. They see that, by Divine Providence, the political and intellectual developments of the Greco-Roman civilizations enabled the Church to flourish and the gospel to spread throughout the world. Additionally, our students are intimately familiar with the Church’s great heroes and her artistic treasures. Alongside our “saint of the month”, we also celebrate a composer and artist each month. Our classrooms frequently play beautiful music by masters such as Josquin and Palestrina, and our walls adorned with the works of Michelangelo and Bernini. In paying tribute to the very best in Christian civilization, students come to understand a key Catholic teaching: grace does not destroy nature, but perfects it.

69. The school ensures that curriculum standards, guides, texts, and pedagogy integrate the truths of the Catholic faith. Strongly agree

Additional Information

70a. The school emphasizes Catholic contributions to theology, philosophy, ethics, literature, science, mathematics, and the visual and performing arts.	Strongly agree
70b. The faculty challenge students to evaluate history in the context of Catholic moral and social teachings.	Strongly agree
70c. The faculty challenge students to evaluate civic (and for high schools economic) concepts and events within the context of Catholic moral and social teachings.	Strongly agree
70d. The school ensures that students gain cultural literacy and fluency in language, idioms, stories, civics, and knowledge that form the American experience.	Strongly agree
70e. The school ensures that students understand the impact of a Catholic worldview on language, idioms, intellectual tradition, and stories of western culture.	Strongly agree

71. Attach a PDF of major works and authors studied in grade 6-12 literature classes. (See below).

72. The science program presents significant contributions of Catholic scientists such as Mendel, Lavoisier, Pasteur, Galileo, Gregor, Volta, and Copernicus. Yes

73. The school presents the topics of creation, evolution, the environment, and genetics in the context of Church teachings and in opposition to secular materialism and scientism. Yes

74. The school emphasizes and integrates the unity of faith and reason throughout the curriculum. Strongly agree

75. How does the school ensure that students are prepared to evangelize culture and their fellowman?

The Good, the True, and the Beautiful are the focus of a St. Benedict Elementary education. Our ideal graduate will be able to share with the world their love for all that is good, true, and beautiful. Our students are instructed in virtue and all that Western Civilization has to offer. They are exposed to great literature, great music, and great art. As they gain an appreciation of true beauty and the ultimate beauty, the Blessed Trinity, they will be able to evangelize the world.

Comments and Additional Explanation. (Please cite individual question with comment):

Reading List from #71 Above:

Sixth Grade Reading List

The Trojan War by Olivia Coolidge

The Odyssey by Homer, translated by S. Butler

The Aeneid for Boys & Girls by A. Church

The Bronze Bow by E. Speare

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien

Julius Caesar by W. Shakespeare