

SPPS' Religious Ed Program

Do you wonder if your child's religious education is adequate? A good judge of that would be Kathy Ackerman, the high school program teacher. I asked her for her thoughts on the job SPPS is doing teaching our kids religion. Here's her response:

Ever wonder if Sts. Peter & Paul School will really make a difference in your child's faith? My name is Kathy Ackerman and I have been working with our parish teens in the high school program for the past ten years. I can tell you that the answer to this question is a resounding YES!

High school students are under tremendous pressure. Along with all of the usual peer pressures, there is a renewed pressure on academics and sports as parents eye ways to help fund college education. Add to all of that part-time jobs and social activities and you can see why some teens want to just close their bedroom doors and sleep! In the midst of all this, teens who have attended SPPS know that their faith is vital to survival, even if they don't always act enthusiastic about attending church or youth group. I know this from years of working with our high school students and comparing those who attended SPPS and those who did not. SPPS students make up the bulk of those attending our parish youth group and they tend to come together willingly. Perhaps part of that is due to the strong sense of family that comes out of the school. When they are all going in different directions in high school, it feels good for them to reconnect with a smaller group of "family".

When students begin to prepare for Confirmation, I notice a marked difference in SPPS alumni. These students are well prepared and ready to tackle some of the deeper aspects of faith. Not only do they know the fundamentals of faith, they live it through their example and witness to other high school students.

If you don't have older children, you may think this information is irrelevant right now. Let me assure you, the early faith formation provided at SPPS, when reinforced and supported at home, is like gold when your student enters high school. You've made a great decision – so celebrate!