

Academic Formation

Academic formation occurs when the interaction between teacher and student is real and when it is firmly rooted in an understanding of curricula, an understanding of instructional methodologies and an understanding of the social context that promotes the formation of mental habits. These characteristics, when in union with each other, create optimum learning.

In order to provide for a comprehensive and rigorous curriculum, the Antonian faculty has focused much of its time on the alignment of its curriculum to national standards, has focused its desired results for student learning, has expanded its repertoire of teaching methods and techniques and has fine-tuned its writing of daily learning objectives. The Antonian curriculum is established with the premise that all students can learn and that academic rigor forms the basis for serious learning. The curriculum teaches a very basic discipline of mental habits and a meticulous examination of subject matter.

Effective learning of curricular objectives is most closely linked to the instructional methodologies teachers utilize.

Students will learn when instructional methodologies are varied and appropriate to their modes of learning.

Antonian continues to integrate technology across its curriculum as a means of learning. Some departments utilize the internet for direct teaching purposes in the classroom. Others utilize two computer labs for instructional and research purposes. All classrooms are also equipped with LCD projectors and the use of SMART Boards.

Learning occurs when the social context of the classroom meets optimum conditions. As is the case at Antonian, this does not mean that there must be quiet or that all classrooms must resemble each other.

To have an optimal social context that is conducive towards learning, students must understand the expectations of the social condition and must also understand the consequences if they fail to meet the expectations.

Spiritual Formation

An excerpt from the National Catholic Educational Association's faculty faith development program for Catholic elementary and secondary schools called "Sharing the Faith" states, "There would be no particular need for Catholic schools if the task of education were simply to train or nurture the mind." The fact, confirmed by recent research, that Catholic schools promote academic outcomes as well as or better than their public counterparts is not sufficient to justify their existence. It is the commitment to heart and spirit, as well as mind that gives Catholic schools a

unique and vital mission. The effective Catholic school nurtures a life-orienting faith; it fulfills an academic purpose and simultaneously promotes disposition to service, sparks a passion for justice, and creates a commitment to community. Within this faith community, it attempts to highlight similarities and respect differences.

The process of religious formation involves the entire Antonian community through: religion courses as a major part of the core curriculum; small group and community-wide liturgies; co-curricular religious activities and service programs; grade-level retreats, days of recollection and prayer; and campus ministry. In this way, Antonian challenges each student to reflect upon his/her role and mission in this world in relation to the grace of God and instills a meaningful faith which can be applied to all aspects of the student's daily life.

While living in community, Antonian calls forth in its students and teachers the need to worship together. By living in community, helping one another and worshipping together, we become people of service. Being people of service, being people of the Beatitudes, is the synthesis of faith formation. To that end, each student is required to earn one hundred hours of community service prior to graduation. Each year, students go above and beyond this requirement while participating in a variety of projects benefitting the San Antonio community.

The Ultimate Goal

In the end, through this process of student formation, the goal of Antonian College Preparatory High School, therefore, is to help provide students the necessary foundation with which to succeed in life, further learn in college, and live a life worthy of heaven.