

History

Saint Laurence Education, from its inception in 2001, has had the goal of the creation of a private middle school serving the lower income population. The ultimate purpose is to get to these under-served children before they “fall through the cracks”, and educate them using methods and equipment that are used in the finest private schools. This will launch them into high school with strong self-confidence and self-esteem, giving them the tools to excel. The matching of this vision with those of the Nativity Network has provided a boost in our efforts. We plan to open with 10 fifth grade students in August of 2005.

Saint Laurence will not discriminate in its programs, activities, or employment, based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, or ancestry.

For more information:

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Advisory Board

Judge Sandra Miller, Juvenile Court*
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The Right Reverend J. Neil Alexander,
Episcopal Bishop of Atlanta
Kirk Duncan, Holy Innocents' Head
Patricia Harris, CEO Cobb
Microenterprises
*of Paulding County

Timeline

- 2002 - tutoring program planned as groundwork for later school
 - February 2003 through present - tutoring program located at Boys' and Girls' Club of Paulding County.
 - June 2003 - Incorporation as St. Laurence Education, Inc
 - June 2003 through Summer 2003 - build ties with the community and become members of Paulding Collaborative and Paulding Chamber of Commerce
 - December 2003 - 501 (c) (3) status obtained
 - 2004 - Became involved with new Planning for Paulding initiative
 - 2003-2004 - foundational & feasibility studies undertaken and groundwork completed for school.
 - 2004 /2005 - Head of School, Development Director and Master Teacher hired
 - **Fall 2006 - St. Laurence Episcopal Middle School opens with 10 5th grade and 10 6th grade students.** Every year following we will accept these same 20 students
 - Fall 2007 - 7th grade w/ 10 students.
 - Fall 2008 - 8th grade w/ 10 students.
 - Fall 2008 - 8th grade w/ 20 students.
- Full enrollement at 70 children



Saint Laurence Episcopal Middle School's mission is to provide a firm educational foundation for low income, under-served middle grade youth that will allow them to excel in high school and continue with further education. Ultimately this will free them from the poverty cycle and allow them to give back to their community; thereby living out God's plan for their lives.

Approach

Our model for implementing this mission is the well-established Nativity Educational Centers Network founded in 1971. The Nativity Network includes quality, faith-based middle schools that address the development of the whole child. They are independent educational centers linked together in the Nativity Network. Increased test scores demonstrate the success of these learning centers. For example, within the first year of enrollment, language and math scores improve one or two grade levels. In addition, continual support is given to graduates. We will support each student's academic achievement during his/her high school years. The staff of St. Laurence will work with admission officers in quality high schools and colleges to ensure our graduates' placement in these institutions. St. Laurence is a member of the National Association of Episcopal Schools. NAES, founded in 1965 with historic roots dating to the 1930's, has assisted and will provide additional guidance for setting up our school.

Goals

Our independent school will address the individual needs of the whole child. Key to this plan is family involvement. The school will ready these students for high school and higher education with the tools needed to develop out God's gifts in their lives, to become positive, self-fulfilled members of society and to ultimately give back to the community.



Target Population

Learners in St. Laurence Episcopal Middle School will include middle graders in Paulding County, Georgia who qualify for the free/reduced lunch program using federal guidelines. Pupils currently served successfully in public school with Individual Education Plans are not eligible. Admission policies will include testing and interviews with both students and parents/guardians. Each child accepted will demonstrate a desire for learning. Parents must show support by becoming a partner in their child's learning and by a commitment to the school.



Objectives

- Tuition free middle school (5th - 8th)
- Individualized Curriculum
- Nurturing, safe environment
- Strengthen problem solving skills
- 20 or fewer students in each grade
- Lower student-teacher ratios
- Extended school day
- Extended school year
- Parental involvement
- Three meals per day
- After-school / summer programs
- Involvement of the community
- Most effective middle grades curriculum available
- Placement of graduates in quality high schools and colleges
- Help for families to access social services and growth opportunities

Our goals and objectives include providing a quality, individualized education for middle graders, allowing them to develop their God given talents and abilities. Our models for development are well-established institutions with demonstrated success. Our graduates will not only be successful, they will be future leaders in their communities.