

## HISTORY

Blessed Sacrament Parish School was established in 1947 and staffed by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The school population continued to increase in size until it reached maximum capacity with double grades 1 through 8. In the mid 1960's, the number of students began to decline until 1971 when the enrollment was down to 217 students. In 1974, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary withdrew from the school and the first lay principal was hired.

In September of 1977, the Kindergarten was opened to help build future enrollment. At that time, the student population increased to 262 students. However, in subsequent years, enrollment declined to 184 students. In 1981, a Preschool was opened. The program was later expanded to include a pre-Kindergarten. In 1986, the Preschool was fully licensed by the State of California. A ninth grade was added to the school in 1984. This program continued as a necessary component to meet parent and student needs until 1991.

A new building was completed in 1986 to replace three bungalows. A portable building was secured in 1986 which provided one additional classroom and space for the Extended Day Program. As the Preschool numbers increased and the pre-Kindergarten program was established, additional classroom space beneath the school library was outfitted to meet those needs. Open balcony spaces in the older building were enclosed to provide more space for small group work. Currently, one of these rooms is used as the school counselor's office/teacher resource room and the other is used as the Title I Resource Room.

Under the Parish Master Plan for future growth, permission was secured in 1992 for the construction of a 6800 square foot building designed to house three new classrooms, administrative space, a permanent lunch room, designated parish multi-use space, and a new Computer lab. Construction was begun in 1993 and completed in August, 1994. Through donations and fundraising efforts in 1999 a physical fitness structure was installed in the lower yard. It serves a dual purpose, first as equipment to enhance the physical education program and second as play/recess equipment. In 2003 a new play structure replaced older equipment in the preschool play area. Because of the generosity of a donor, artificial turf was installed in the lower yard during August of 2007. This final addition provides an inviting and safe environment for student play times and class times.

In the summer of 2007, a grant proposal was submitted and approved by the First Five Commission of San Diego which allowed for capital improvements for our preschool program. Work was begun in the summer of 2008 which included upgrading of electrical power, extension of internet access to rooms, installation of air conditioning units, new cabinets and shelving units, and canvas shading of play structure yard.

Student enrollment has fluctuated from 175 students in 1979, over 400 students in the 1990's, to a more constant 270 – 300 students in recent years in preschool through grade 8. Over 68% of the students' families are registered in Blessed Sacrament Parish and another 18% are registered in other Catholic parishes. Additionally, the staff has grown from twelve full and part time teaching staff and office personnel to twenty-six staff members.

Blessed Sacrament Parish School continues to accept the challenge of providing Catholic Education opportunities to the faith community which we serve, and we welcome your prayers, participation, and support.