

Computer Education

Computer Education is part of each child's experience at Saint Rose of Lima from Kindergarten through eighth grade. The goals and philosophies go through somewhat of a transformation once our students reach the middle school level to create a more challenging and real-world approach to technology. Instead of focusing on lessons geared toward one or two specific skills, we use a project-based approach so our students gain more experience with a wide variety of skills. Each project entails many aspects and may take weeks or even months to complete.

For example, the major seventh grade project requires the students to create a themed restaurant. During this process, they use Microsoft Word to create a business plan which includes goals, keys to success, roadblocks to success, competition, and a timeline detailing the plan from startup to operation. The students use Internet research skills to learn about the actual cost of food, furniture, utilities, rental space, advertising, and employees. With this information in mind, they use Excel to create a spreadsheet that details every aspect of the restaurant's budget. The students then use PowerPoint to create a commercial to advertise their business.

This project, as well as others introduced in middle school, allows the students to use creativity and teamwork to learn about programs that they will utilize in high school. We believe a project-based approach is motivating and grounds the learning with real-world applications.