

K-12 STEM, INNOVATION & ARTS

Student-Centered Learning Inspires Innovation Preparing Students for College and Beyond

From building robots that compete internationally to fluidly exchanging ideas and information in shared digital workspaces – Santa Margarita Catholic High School's experiential, student-centered approach to learning promotes a culture of innovation and propels students to succeed in college and beyond.

With academic programs designed to meet the needs of varied learners, classes are spent mastering material through group exercises, projects and engaging discussions. Santa Margarita is the only Catholic school in the county to offer the International Baccalaureate program providing academically-talented students the opportunity to earn a globally recognized diploma with a curriculum that develops internationally-minded, creative thinkers.

The school's STREAM program combines science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and mathematics to bridge a better understanding of curriculum across disciplines. Through hands-on assignments, critical thinking skills are strengthened. Students have designed artificial limbs and engineered safety equipment among other projects.

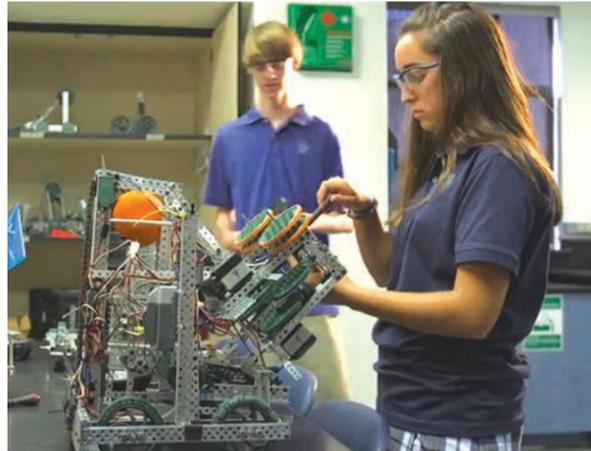
Recently, the school was recognized as a global leader in educational technology. For the fourth consecutive year, SMCHS was named a Microsoft Showcase School for successfully integrating tablet PC and cloud technology to deliver a more personalized education preparing students for success in college and the workplace. Santa Margarita is the only school in the county to receive this honor, just one of two in the state and one of 29 in the nation. Students use digital ink to take and file notes in electronic notebooks, virtually collaborate with students and teachers and can quickly access electronic books and class material through their tablets.



Innovation extends beyond the classroom with numerous opportunities for students to gain "real-world" skills. Whether it be tinkering around with emerging technology in the Borchard Library Media Center's "makerspace," exploring computer programming through the Coding Club; broadcasting a sports game live on Eagle TV 2.0 or utilizing theater as a means for self-discovery and societal transformation, God-given talents are developed in a nurturing Christ-centered environment.

Santa Margarita's director of robotics, Jason Lawrence, was recently recognized as one of "Parenting OC" magazine's top 25 teachers in the county. Founded in 2014, the school's robotics team competes internationally. Lawrence guides students in a broad range of areas including engineering, business, marketing, teamwork, problem solving and budgeting. In 2016, the team earned a trip to the world championships where they finished as the second ranked rookie team in their division. Through the program, students are mentored by professionals from companies such as Applied Medical and Boeing.

Santa Margarita's Eagles Edge program also provides students with access to industry experts through internship and



job opportunities as well as hands-on workshops that help establish a foundation for future success. In the arts, a master artist series exposes students to working professionals across the arts spectrum.

With nine full-time counselors dedicated to working with families on the college admissions process, a college relations director forging strong partnerships with universities across the nation, and college planning tools to assist families with making informed decisions – students are accepted into the world's leading universities with the majority of students earning scholarships.

For more information on Santa Margarita Catholic High School, visit www.smhs.org.

CLASS OF 2017:

- 396** Members of the class of 2017
- \$42.1** Million in scholarship offers
- 100%** Acceptance rate at 230 schools
- 100%** Performed community service
- 2,267** College acceptances

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