



Blessed To Be A Blessing



A Monthly Update on St. Timothy's Lutheran School

Each month throughout this school year, the school board will be highlighting some of the core values of St. Timothy's Lutheran School. We want to share these with you, so you understand more about what is important to St. Tim's School.

It's no secret that St. Timothy's Lutheran School features small class sizes. It's been a selling point of our school for three decades. In fact, next to the Christ-centered, nurturing environment our school offers, class size is one of the most frequently cited reasons why parents send their children to St. Tim's. Given the recent cuts in California's education budget (and the subsequent increase in class sizes statewide) the importance of smaller class size (and the inherent benefits thereof) cannot be underestimated.

Study after study, the most current data available underscores the benefits of small class sizes, especially in the K through grade 5 years. The obvious benefit of *greater personalized attention* only tells part of the story. There are a multitude of benefits, both for students **and** teachers.

Let's start with the students.


According to research findings, children who are products of consistent small class environments (usually K – 5) tend to develop more sophisticated study skills, learn how to interact more maturely with classmates and teachers, and listen more attentively. Other studies have demonstrated that there are significant increases in standardized reading and math scores for kids educated in small classes. In fact, some researchers have concluded that attending small classes from K through grade 4, alone, has the equivalent effect of receiving six to fourteen additional months of schooling. Long term, the academic and social benefits of attending small classes typically continue after students move into larger classroom environments. These kids perform at high levels in high school and college, often taking advanced level courses. Indeed, a sample profile of St. Tim's alumni would seem to validate all the above, with reports from former families of the success of their children at schools such as Bellarmine, Archbishop Mitty, Valley Christian, and King's Academy. Other alumni have contacted the school to highlight their successes at top universities in the country.

The teachers benefit too.

Small classes afford teachers the opportunity to spend more time educating and less time on matters of discipline and improving poor behavior. To a teacher, the opportunities are seemingly endless in terms developing personalized academic programs and innovative classroom activities that would not otherwise be possible in a larger class setting. Likewise, a small class environment is far more conducive to consistent parent-teacher communication, a key ingredient to a child's academic and social success.

At St. Timothy's Lutheran School, we are proud of our small class size history. What we've known for 30 years has been consistently validated by the research and academic community: small class size is critical to success. But our recipe for success includes some other key ingredients worth noting: a Christ-based environment, love, a strong sense of community, active parent participation, top tier teachers and staff, and a group of adorable kids.

Thanks for your support of St. Timothy's Lutheran School. If you know of someone who would benefit from all we have to offer, please put them in touch with us.

 **St. Timothy's Lutheran School**

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