

## From the Principal



Welcome to Guardian Angel School. Guardian Angel School was founded in 1952 on January 29<sup>th</sup> by Fr. Koener. Fr. Koener wanted to establish a school that would provide strong religious education and formation, a school that would provide an atmosphere where students can practice their faith, and thus grow into faithful members of the Church. In order to achieve that objective, our students have the opportunity to live the sacraments, to learn about their faith and the reasons behind their beliefs. Our students are encouraged to grow in the love for Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Church.

Guardian Angel seeks to provide our students with a strong intellectual formation. For that reason, we are adapting a classical methodology of teaching where the instruction adapts to the way students learn: the Grammatical, Logical and Rhetorical stages. In the Grammatical stage, students who are in the earlier stages of their intellectual development have a greater facility to memorize and to imitate, and therefore we put a special emphasis on memorizing fine examples of poetry, catechism questions, the reading of excellent examples of literature for them to imitate. The next stage, the Logical stage (grades 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>), students continue to master materials by memorizing; however, at this age, they are now developing their ability to do critical thinking. And so, they are guided in this area through reasoning ethical problems, debates, discussions, etc. The Rhetorical stage is developed at the high school level; nevertheless, our students do some activities that prepare them for this stage by learning how to express themselves properly through public speaking, through writing properly and with style. This simple methodology has formed some of the great minds in history such as St. Thomas Aquinas, Einstein, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and many others. Combining the classical methodology and the modern methods of teaching are an excellent recipe for a great intellectual formation.

Since Guardian Angel tries to form the whole person, we have been adopting a program on the formation of the virtues. Students learn through examples about important virtues for their lives; they are encouraged to put them into practice and to glorify God in the way they act, the way they speak, and in the way they dress. Every day we encourage our children to be excellent. This is what Guardian Angel Catholic School offers: an opportunity for our students to excel in all aspects of their lives by developing all of their talents.

Thank you,

Mario Landeros, MA  
Principal