

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL
COMPUTER CLASS
MR. DAVID TEHERANI

Another wonderful and productive school year has come and gone. It is truly amazing when you stop and take a second to reflect. The weeks seem to have passed like days and the hours like just a few seconds. The students and I have learned a lot, had much fun and continued to prepare for the years to come.

In our progressive and sequential computer curriculum we focus on the skills necessary to help our students succeed in the future with a focus on the academic challenges to come and life itself. Our major focus includes; effective and proper keyboarding, the development of effective internet researching skills, the formatting and multiple uses of word processing tools, creating visual presentations using Power Point, and creating charts, graphs and using the calculation features of Microsoft Excel.

It all starts in Kindergarten where we practice and develop the elementary skills of pointing, clicking, dragging, drawing and keyboard awareness. We accomplish this by using age appropriate, subject area specific, games and software. We even begin keyboarding at the tale end of kindergarten and then move up to the usage of proper hand position and typing spelling words in 1st and 2nd Grade. We begin learning how to navigate the internet for the purposes of research and timed typing in 2nd and 3rd. In 4th and 5th we begin introducing the Microsoft Office applications and use them consistently from there on to introduce new skills and build on existing ones. We also spend some time in middle school learning key terms, keyboard shortcuts and actually understanding how computers really work.

This year we had a lot of fun and learned a lot. Many of our students made great strides. Every year the goal is simply having fun while learning. My personal teaching philosophy is based on relationship building. Over the past 11 years I have learned a few things and the two that mean the most are; learning should be fun and all kids simply need to know they are loved. These two ideas help create the atmosphere that makes our computer lab one of our students very favorite places. I truly consider it to be an honor to have the opportunity to teach our kids and work in this wonderful community.

I am looking forward to a fantastic 2009-2010 school year at Good Shepherd.

I would encourage you to continue building on your keyboarding skills over the summer. If you can type effectively, computer use comes much easier and is more fun. Here are a couple of sites that offer lessons, games and timed typing tests: FreeTypingGame.net, TypingTest.com and OnlyTypingGames.com. Younger students (Kinder) can enjoy some free fun games at Yahoo Kids.com or Nabisco World.com. In middle school you might want to keep a running diary, written record, or journal using Microsoft Word of the things you do and the places you go this summer.

Regardless of what you do this summer, I pray that God may continue to bless all of our families, staff and our kids. Have a great one and we'll see you in August.