St. Matthew School Mission Statement

The mission of St. Matthew Catholic School is to educate a strong faith-centered community through a commitment to the spiritual, moral, intellectual, social and physical development of each child.

Fr. Dennis Aréchiga, Pastor  Mr. Alvin Caro, Principal

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WELCOME

- Welcome letter from Fr. Dennis D. Aréchiga, Pastor of St. Matthew Catholic Church

- A brief history of St. Matthew Catholic School
BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. MATTHEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

January 1993: Ground breaking for St Matthew Catholic School
Pastor: Msgr. John Flynn

August 1993: St. Matthew Catholic School opens – August 18, 1993
Pastor: Msgr. John Flynn
Principal: Sr. Patrice Floyd, IWBS

August 1994: Pastor: Msgr. John Flynn
Principal: Mr. Curtis Youngman

August 1996: Pastor: Msgr. John Flynn
Principal: Mrs. Cindy Salinas

Principal: Mrs. Cindy Salinas

August 2004: Pastor: Msgr. Michael Yarbrough
Principal: Mr. Alvin Caro

August 2010: Pastor: Fr. Dennis Aréchiga
Principal: Mr. Alvin Caro

St. Matthew Catholic Church and School are in North Central San Antonio, adjacent to the Medical Center. In 1992 Msgr. John Flynn, conducted a parish survey which revealed the desire for a parish school. He undertook the project with the firm belief that a parish school strengthened the religious education of the parish and strengthened parish life as a whole.

In January 1993, ground was broken for St. Matthew Catholic School and on August 18, 1993, the school opened with an enrollment of just under 400 students. The school was dedicated by Bishop Joseph Galante on Oct. 10, 1993.

Msgr. Michael Yarbrough was appointed pastor of St. Matthew Catholic Church on June 1, 1998. During his twelve years as our pastor, Msgr. Yarbrough was committed to the children, to their families, to the faculty and staff and, to promoting the Mission of St Matthew Catholic School.

St. Matthew Parish welcomed Fr. Dennis Aréchiga as its pastor on June 1, 2010. Fr. Dennis, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and a former music teacher in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, brought his years of service as a pastor at St. Monica’s in Converse, Texas and as Pastoral Administrator of a parish school. Fr. Dennis is a strong supporter of Catholic education. The faculty welcome his visits to the classrooms during the school year. We are blessed to be part of a living faith community. Fr. Dennis is assisted in the parish by Rev. Jake Emperor, SJ,
Msgr. Juan Alfaro, Rev. Abel Ruiz and eleven deacons. They meet the school children at weekly liturgies, during Reconciliation and on special holy days.

Sr. Patrice Floyd, IWBS, the first principal of St. Matthew Catholic School, opened the school with a full schedule for students from PreK-3 through 8th grade. Under the administration of Mr. Curtis Jungman, 1994-1996, school enrollment continued to grow, new classes were added at each grade level, and the decision was made to begin enrollment with PreK-4 classes. Under the administration of Mrs. Cindy Salinas, St. Matthew Catholic School reached an enrollment of over 700 students from Pre-K through eighth grade. Classroom space was expanded with the addition of three portable classroom buildings.

Mr. Alvin Caro, the current principal, is starting his 13th year at St. Matthew Catholic School. He brings expertise gained from over 30 years of experience as a teacher, coach, academic coordinator, and principal in the public schools in and around San Antonio. Mr. Caro and his family are active members of St. Matthew Parish. He is committed to the Mission Statement of St. Matthew Catholic School, to maintaining our traditions of excellence, and to careful planning for the near and distant future. Under his leadership the exterior of the school has been enhanced. This enhancement has included the completion of the entrance plaza, the addition of a sports court, the installation of a newly designed pre-school playground, the addition of an awning cover over the back-carline drop-off area, adding to the security of the campus by including closed-circuit monitoring and a security fencing, and a renovated school cafeteria. This school year we look forward to the start of construction of the Building the Future Campaign. The newest addition to the parish complex, the construction of the new gym facilities and the addition of a road to access the property from Vance Jackson will be in progress.

The school’s staffing has evolved with the needs of the school and community. The full-time positions of Director of Development, Technology Administrator, Curriculum Director, Dyslexia and Intervention specialist and Resource teacher have been added to the staff.

In the 2013-2014 school year, with the support of the Pastor and the School Council, the iPad initiative was implemented. The principal contracted for the installation of a reliable communication infrastructure that would support the bandwidth needed to ensure WiFi and internet access to stream freely throughout the campus. All student iPads accessed the internet through the School server, whether at school or at home. This safeguard was installed to protect students when accessing the internet. Inappropriate internet sites and social networking sites were blocked. This same level of internet safety is available during this school year with the Mobicip Search Engine.

When school opened for the 2013 school year, each child in Grade 4 – Grade 8 received a school-issued iPad. Students in PreK-4 through Grade 3 had access to iPad technology in a rotation system using a dedicated grade-level set of iPads. Technology in all the classrooms has been updated with the addition of Apple TVs; some classrooms use Elmo document cameras and/or Mimio devices.
Parent – School communication has been enhanced and expanded. Students, parents, teachers, and the administration use RenWeb, an electronic parent-to-school communication system, to maintain communication between the school and the parents. A weekly newsletter with photos and links to interactive video snaps bring the events of the week to life. An updated user-friendly Website debuted at the start of the 2015-2016 school year St. Matthew Catholic School. Each faculty member has his/her own webpage which is accessed from the school website.

St. Matthew Catholic School also has a presence on social media with a Facebook page, and Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram accounts. The FACTS Tuition Management Program was introduced in the 2017-2018 school year.

In the 2017-2018 school year, The Project Based Learning STREAM Initiative will be implemented throughout the school. Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Math will be incorporated into planned projects that are based in the grade-level TEKS and Archdiocesan Curriculum.

St. Matthew Catholic School is and will continue to be dedicated to faith formation, educational excellence and innovation, and service to the community.