



## Scholars and Gentlemen in the Sacred Heart Tradition

*Goal One of all schools of the Sacred Heart: to educate to a personal and active faith in God.*

Inspired by this goal, Berchmans Academy nurtures its students in the Catholic faith, instills values, and teaches spirituality in a secure, responsive environment much like that of an extended family. By coming to a school of the Sacred Heart, one becomes part of a family. At Berchmans, the experience of community, worship, and social concern are integrated into a total experience for students, their parents, and members of the faculty. As a Sacred Heart school, we seek to establish genuine relationships where courtesy, respect, and concern for others are the standard. We foster inter-religious acceptance and dialogue by educating to an understanding of and deep respect for the religions of the world.

Students are taught reverence and appropriate behaviors for celebrating Eucharistic liturgies, participating in prayer services, retreats, Stations of the Cross, recitation of the Rosary, and visits to chapel. Even the youngest preschool students enter into our spiritual community by learning their prayers, participating in simple prayer services and attending liturgies with the older boys. The school day opens with morning assembly and prayer. During the course of the school year, each class takes a turn preparing and participating in a liturgy. Parents are encouraged to join their children in worshiping together at school liturgies.

To ensure that the mission of Sacred Heart Schools is kept alive and vibrant, special attention is given to the celebration of Eucharist liturgies in honor of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, our foundress, to St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, who brought the mission of the Sacred Heart to America, to St. John Berchmans, and to Mater Admirabilis, the title of the Mother of God special to Sacred Heart Schools. At each of these celebrations, the story of each is repeated again to our students so that each student grows to understand the truly unique quality of a Sacred Heart education: to be young men of God dedicated to discipleship to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to be models of His love and service, to be the face of Christ to each person they encounter, not only at school, but also to all the communities of which they are a part now and will be in the future.

The faculty models our faith and is always alert to those special teaching moments when one of the goals of Sacred Heart education can be incorporated into a lesson. Spirituality permeates the school day through prayer, modeling, and instructional opportunities not confined to religion class alone. The faculty is also formed in the traditions and faith practices as a Sacred Heart school and a Catholic school during faculty meetings and faculty retreats. In these ways, we encourage faculty faith formation and nurture an active faith life.

Berchmans educates for moral character. Our mission is to teach children respect and responsibility for themselves and for others. By teaching these attributes, children learn to co-exist with others. The teacher's behavior, manner of speaking, and treatment of other people transmit powerful moral messages to children. Through the teacher's actions, children learn to show caring and concern for themselves and others. At Berchmans, students are taught awareness of each other, the importance of relationships, and the need for social service. Social action is a basic concern for all followers of Christ and this responsibility is introduced to Berchmans boys early in their school career.