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Georgia Library Spotlight - St. Jude the Apostle Catholic School Library

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GLA SPOTLIGHT

St. Jude the Apostle Catholic School Library

Tucked away in Sandy Springs, Georgia is St. Jude the Apostle Catholic School. The St. Jude Library and Media Center serves the teachers and 511 students in grades kindergarten through eight. The library's amazing collection has over 20,000 items including books, e-books, A/V resources (DVDs, CDs, and playaways), and periodicals for faculty and students, as well as electronic databases (EBSCO, World Book Online, Grolier, Gale, and Nettrekker). Nine computer stations and eight laptops are available for searching the online library catalog, working on research projects, taking Accelerated Reader (AR) quizzes, and using word processing. Everything supports the school mission statement of "nurturing the formation of saints and scholars."



Every school day at St. Jude the Apostle Catholic School begins with the morning news show, which is broadcast live from the media center throughout the school. It is run by middle school students who write their anchor reports by interviewing teachers and students. The WSJA News is a unique learning experience for many students who enjoy working behind the scenes with the cameras and sound/video mixing equipment.

The library often hosts author visits and celebrity guest readers. This year, the St. Jude

Library welcomed local authors Eileen Jedlicka, Cassandra Jones, and Cheryl Mure. Celebrity guest readers included television personalities Fred Kalil and Karyn Greer, Dunwoody Mayor Mike Davis, and Dr. Diane Starkovich, the superintendent of Atlanta Archdiocese.

Besides weekly library classes, students enjoy a variety of fun activities. During LEGOs in the Library week, students can bring their LEGO creations to display and tell their classmates about their work. Second grade girls attended an American Girl doll tea party in October,

while second grade boys were invited to a Hall of Fame sports celebration a few weeks later. Students were asked to read a book (either an American Girl book or a sports book from the Sports Illustrated Kids Graphic Novels series or the Jake Maddox series), take and pass an AR quiz, and bring their American Girl doll or the sports award to share at the party.

Students in grades 3–6 participate in the annual Archdiocese wide Battle of the Books competition. Children form teams and read books from the lists provided by the Catholic school librarians. In spring, classroom and school competitions are held before the final competition in May. Last year the sixth grade team won.

The library is a comfortable and welcoming facility. With an LCD projector and screen, it serves as a meeting place for the Technology Club, the Future City competition teams, and

the No Place for Hate presentations. St. Jude submitted twenty-two student projects to the Georgia Student Media Festival, seven qualified for the International Student Media Festival, five received an Excellence in Media Production award, and two out of these five were recognized as Judges' Favorites. One of our

Future City teams won first place in the Georgia regional competition this year, along with four special society awards. The team, Ark City, went on to Washington, DC to represent Georgia in the National Future City competition and won a special society award for Most Sustainable Buildings.