St. Cletus School
FAITH FAMILY FUTURE

# Technology Learning Center (TLC)

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! My name is Frank Ochoa, and I will be your child's TLC teacher. Throughout the year, all grades from Preschool to 8th grade will engage with various aspects of technology.

Previously, I served as the IT Director at another school within the Archdiocese of Chicago. Currently, I assist with the development and maintenance of our school and parish websites, as well as assist with the management of our social media platforms. In addition, I handle videography for most school activities and events and serve as a backup to our current IT director.

## Common Sense Media

St. Cletus will implement the Common-Sense Media program, in partnership with the Archdiocese of Chicago. Students in grades K-8 will engage in discussions about the importance of maintaining a safe and secure environment when using technology. Safety and best practices will be reviewed consistently throughout the school year.

## Preschool and Kindergarten

Preschool and Kindergarten students will be introduced to the basic parts of a computer, learning how to hold and use a mouse, including clicking, dragging, and identifying keyboard keys. When using tablets, they will practice tapping, swiping, and using basic gestures. They'll also explore educational games and apps that encourage problem-solving, creativity, and foundational skills such as counting and letter recognition. Additionally, they will learn the importance of online safety, including not talking to strangers and seeking help from an adult when needed. Lastly, they will discover how technology is used in the classroom, our community, and the wider world.

## 1st and 2nd Grade

Students in 1st and 2nd grade will start developing their keyboarding skills, focusing on mastering the home row keys, recognizing letters, and typing simple words or sentences. They will also be introduced to basic coding through block-based platforms like Code.org, which emphasize problem-solving and logical thinking. Additionally, they will explore basic digital art creation using drawing tools, which will help enhance their hand-eye coordination and mouse control. Although actual 3D design will be taught in later grades, these young learners will gain an understanding of 3D printing and have the chance to print their own 3D item. Finally, students will engage with the wide variety of robotics available in our school.

**3rd and 4th Grade**

In 3rd and 4th grades, students will work on improving their typing speed and accuracy, continuing to practice with home row keys and focusing on typing longer words and simple sentences. They will be introduced to basic keyboard shortcuts (e.g., Ctrl+C for copy, Ctrl+V for paste). Their coding skills will advance through more complex projects on platforms like Code.org, where they will learn about loops, conditionals, and variables. Students will begin using basic graphic design software to create more intricate digital art projects, such as posters or cards. They will also be introduced to the Google Suite, with an emphasis on Google Classroom. Additionally, students will start exploring basic 3D design software and have the opportunity to print their own 3D objects using the school's printers. Lastly, they will continue to engage with the wide range of robotics available in our school.

**5th and 6th Grade**

In these grades, students will focus on improving their typing speed and accuracy by practicing with longer passages and essays. They will continue working with block-based coding, tackling more complex challenges and projects, such as creating simple games or animations. We will explore online safety, responsible technology use, and digital footprints in greater detail. Their coding skills will advance as they take on more intricate projects on platforms like Code.org, learning about loops, conditionals, and variables. Students will start using 3D builder software to design and create small items, understanding how their design choices affect the printing process. Additionally, 5th and 6th graders will work in small groups to build robotics. They will further develop their skills in Google Suites and Microsoft Office and will be introduced to web design while continuing to enhance their graphic design abilities.

**7th and 8th Grade**

Students will continue to be exposed to tasks mentioned above and also create multimedia presentations or projects using multiple suites and present to the class. These students will also work on advanced 3D modeling skills, design objects with functional purposes. Exploring the real-world applications of robotics in various industries will be introduced. Using spreadsheets for managing and analyzing data will be reviewed to assist with math and science assignments. Basic concepts of AI and how it is used in daily life, simple projects using AI tools or platforms designed for education and ethical considerations and the impact of AI on society will be reviewed.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please reach out via email at **fochoa@stcletusparish.com**

Please visit our TLC webpage for videos and additional information.

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