



# St Michael's Catholic High School

## DOMINICAN PEDAGOGY

Dominican pedagogy is deeply rooted in the traditions of the Dominican Order, emphasizing **truth, contemplation, and community**. Here are some key principles:

1. **The Four Pillars** – Dominican education is built on four foundational elements:
  - **Study** – A commitment to intellectual inquiry and lifelong learning.
  - **Prayer** – Spiritual reflection and connection with faith.
  - **Community** – A focus on collaboration and shared wisdom.
  - **Preaching** – The application of knowledge to serve others and promote justice.
2. **Inquiry-Based Learning** – Inspired by the Scholastic method of *disputatio*, Dominican pedagogy encourages questioning, discussion, and critical thinking.

Encourage students to ask **deep questions** and explore different viewpoints, much like the *disputatio* method used by Dominican scholars. This can be incorporated into subjects like philosophy, theology, and humanities through debates, structured dialogues, and problem-solving exercises.

3. **Faith and Reason** – Dominican education fosters a dialogue between faith and reason, ensuring that theological study interacts meaningfully with other academic disciplines.

Create opportunities for students to see the **relationship between theology and other disciplines**, for example:

- Exploring ethical dilemmas in science through Catholic Social Teaching.
- Studying historical justice movements alongside Church teachings on human dignity.

4. **The Common Good** – A strong emphasis on social justice, ethical responsibility, and service to others.

Encourage learning beyond the classroom through **community-based projects**, outreach programs, and service initiatives that put faith into action. Students can engage in reflection sessions where they link their experiences of serving others to their Dominican values.

5. **Freedom and Responsibility** – Dominican education promotes the *intelligent use of liberty*, encouraging students to think independently while being accountable for their actions.

Balance intellectual pursuit with **spiritual formation** by offering moments of prayer, meditation, and reflection in lessons. Encourage students to **pause and think** about how their studies shape their personal and faith journey.