

HISTORY

The dream of Kaplan's first Catholic priest, Reverend August Joseph Maltrait, Pastor, from 1896 to 1921, has become a reality and stands today as a monument to the faith and devotion of Kaplan's many Catholics.

Pere Maltrait planned from the beginning, for the day when the parish could have a convent of its own to offer a Catholic Education to its youth. He acquired marshland and held it with a view to using it someday for a Catholic School. He did not live to see his dream come true, but his vision and guidance had left their mark and in 1952 a Catholic School was opened. It was named in his honor as the Maltrait Memorial School.

Maltrait Memorial School opened its doors on September 2, 1952, to 81 youngsters. Classes in the first three grades were offered, but a grade was added each year until a full eight grade elementary school was in operation.

Monsignor Gustave Berube' was successful, after much effort, in persuading the order of the Grey Nuns of the Cross to come to Kaplan and operate the school. On September 8th he blessed the school.

In 1955 a gymnasium was constructed, partially with lumber salvaged from the old church building. Another addition to the school was the outdoor statue of St. Dominic Savio, patron saint of school children, donated by the late Oday Vincent of Kaplan.

So many wonderful improvements have been made at Maltrait Memorial School through the years. Today Maltrait has a stable enrollment in grades Pre-K through Eighth.

Pre-K through Fourth grades are self-contained with the teacher conducting all academic courses and a religion teacher providing religious education on a daily basis. Fifth through Eighth grades are departmentalized including religion as a daily subject.

Maltrait now has a well-supplied and equipped Library as well as a modern Computer Lab. Students access these facilities on a daily basis to enrich academic study.

Mission Statement (revised, as adopted November, 1995)

The Mission of Maltrait Memorial School is threefold: **Faith Development**, **Academic Excellence** and **Leadership**. Maltrait Memorial School cooperates with the Church and the parents to assist, guide, inspire, instruct and form the children so that they may perfect themselves spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally and socially. With the help of God's grace, Maltrait strives to promote the supreme goals of human life in this world, and prepare the students at the same time for eternal life.

To achieve this Maltrait reinforces our Catholic heritage and family values incorporating values of love, prayer, morality and service, all of which are rooted in the home and nurtured in the school.

It is our purpose to give to all students basic religious instruction and formation, basic knowledge, understanding and skill in all the fundamental school academic subjects. Our objective is to produce a well-rounded person, an individual prepared to fulfill all his duties, those toward his family, civil community, his world, his church and his God.

School Motto: "God, Children and Learning Are Our Priority"

PHILOSOPHY

Maltrait Memorial Catholic School is committed to the work of the church through the ministry of education. In the Bishops' text, *To Teach as Jesus Did*, it is stated that we have a three-fold ministry: giving the message of God, fellowship in the Holy Spirit, and service to the community.

Maltrait strives to teach the individual to seek the good in all people by helping students develop social acceptance of others regardless of race, color, creed, handicap, national origin or financial status, in a safe peaceful environment.

We believe in providing the child with a sound academic education which will meet his/her emotional, intellectual, physical, religious and social needs.

Through the educational process, Maltrait nourishes self-esteem as well as humility in each individual and continues the development of Christian values and God-given talents begun in the home. Self-discipline is recognized as a prime factor in keeping alive the enthusiasm for learning.

The greatest accomplishment Maltrait can achieve is to foster, in partnership with the parents, the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development of each student. This in turn will enable the student to grow into a mature and active Catholic parishioner, capable of serving God, country and others, now and into the future.