

STREAM students visit Mote Marine

Incarnation students discover Sarasota Bay life

CAROL DARLING

Special to the Florida Catholic

SARASOTA | Students in kindergarten through grade eight at Incarnation Catholic School in Sarasota took a field trip May 24 to Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium for a day of tours and classroom discussions. The day began with Mass, with the theme of God's creation, that included songs, readings, and the homily focused on the beauty that God has created on earth with its waters, land and animals, and on people who are made in God's image.

Incarnation Catholic School is one of three schools in the Diocese that is a pilot school for the STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, art and math) initiative, which consists of the integration of science in all subjects. Dr. Vicki Parks, Diocesan associate superintendent, said Incarnation was designated as a STREAM pilot school based on the commitment of Dr. Ann Davis, principal, and her staff to deliver a 21st-century STREAM-principled education to the students, while raising awareness of excellence in Catholic education in the community.

At Mote, younger students learned about dolphins and water science while the older students learned about sharks and explored the Sarasota Bay water surrounding the aquarium. All grades toured the aquarium, mammal center and "Oh Baby!" exhibits.



Incarnation Catholic School students learn about science and marine life during a May 24 visit to Mote Marine Aquarium in Sarasota. (COURTESY PHOTOS)

Curricular activities prior to the visit prepared students for what they would see and do at Mote. Marie Boyette, science teacher, prepared a scavenger hunt worksheet for the students to complete while exploring the exhibits. She explained how Pope Francis asked in his encyclical "Laudato Si" for everyone to create a culture of care and a civilization of love for our earthly home.

"As a Catholic school, we infuse our Catholic identity in all that we do and the STREAM educational platform allows us to do just that," Boyette said. "The students at Incarnation learn that science and

religion go together; they don't oppose each other. They don't just learn science in the science room, math only during math class, religion only in the chapel. All subjects are integrated and students use their integrated knowledge to solve age-appropriate real-life problems, answer real-life questions with critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and good communication.

"It is the objective of teachers involved in the STREAM program to educate the whole child and help them to grow in faith, knowledge and love," Boyette continued. "We

will be utilizing Mote's educational resources, field trips and mobile classroom to bring the ocean to our students in the hopes of creating stewardship through science. We also plan to create a school garden and an outdoor classroom for hands-on learning and to again incorporate all the STREAM disciplines for a complete and holistic education for our students." ■

Information on STREAM is available at <http://www.ncea.org/departments/news/10-characteristics-stream-school>.



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