



DIocese of PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE
OFFICE *for* CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Catholic Schools



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of God be with you always! We are pleased to present this annual report from the Office for Catholic Schools. As parishioners, parents, neighbors and friends, you should be aware of all of the wonderful things we are doing in our Catholic schools. At the same time, I hope this report inspires you to get more involved with your own faith and to help us to reach even more students and families through our schools.

We exist as a Church to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. We receive this mandate from the Lord Himself at the end of the Gospel of Matthew: “Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19). Each of us, according to our vocation, answers this call in various ways every day. Parents are the first educators of their children in the ways of the Faith. Teachers and administrators in our schools are privileged to assist the parents in the formation and education of our students. Priests, deacons, and parish ministers proclaim the Truth in liturgy, homilies, and in the service they provide to our brothers and sisters. Grandparents and those who are retired assist significantly through their prayers, volunteer hours, and their good example.

Thank you for your support and your prayers. The beautiful thing about our schools is that they are not huge institutions run by a governmental agency. Rather, they are small communities of faith and love, forming the hearts and minds of our children.

May Christ the Teacher bless you in abundance.

In Peace,

Bishop William A. Wack, CSC
Pensacola-Tallahassee

THE MISSION OF THE PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE DIOCESAN SCHOOL SYSTEM IS TO COLLABORATE WITH THE PARENTS IN THE CHRISTIAN FORMATION OF STUDENTS, PASSING ON TO THEM THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TAUGHT BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. THIS IS DONE IN THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WHICH WORSHIPS TOGETHER, FOSTERS SERVICE, AND STRIVES TO ACHIEVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.

superintendent's letter

Dear Friends of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee,

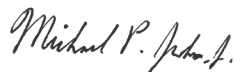
Thank you for taking the time to read this annual report about our Catholic schools and early learning centers. As superintendent, it is my pleasure to share with you the successes of our faculty/staff, administrators, and pastors. This report highlights the fruits of their labor and the differences they are making in the lives of our students and families. It is my joy to be their cheerleader and to share their good works with you.

Our Catholic schools exist for the sole purpose of leading families to Christ through a top-notch education where the Catholic Faith permeates all facets of what we do. We refer to this approach as “Catholic Immersion.”

Our mission is for students to encounter Christ in their coursework, through interactions with peers and staff, and by representing our schools in the greater community through service and performance on the field and in the theatre. We hope to inspire others as we form saints, instilling the hunger and tools in our students to be the best version of themselves they can be.

I hope you enjoy our annual report. We invite you to learn more about our Catholic schools and early learning centers by visiting our websites and attending campus events.

Yours in Christ,



Mike Juhas, Superintendent



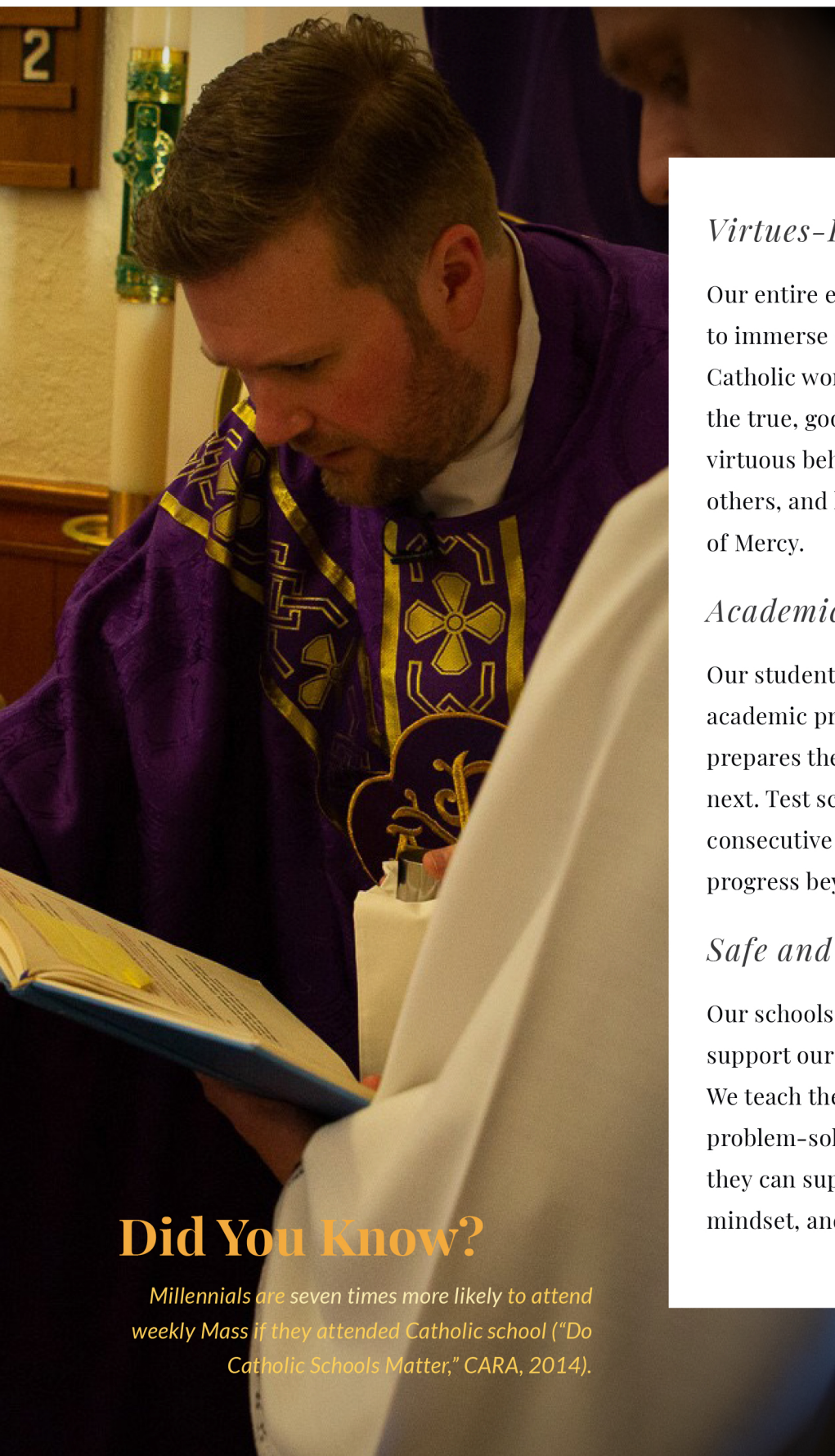
WHY A

catholic education?

"CATHOLIC EDUCATION IS ABOVE ALL A QUESTION OF COMMUNICATING CHRIST, OF HELPING TO FORM CHRIST IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS."

– ST. JOHN PAUL II





Did You Know?

Millennials are seven times more likely to attend weekly Mass if they attended Catholic school ("Do Catholic Schools Matter," CARA, 2014).

Virtues-Based Formation

Our entire educational program is designed to immerse students in Gospel values and a Catholic worldview with an appreciation of the true, good, and beautiful. Students learn virtuous behavior, how to share their faith with others, and how to put into practice the Works of Mercy.

Academic Excellence

Our students progress through a rigorous academic program that challenges them and prepares them for success in this life and the next. Test scores show that students who spend consecutive years in our Catholic schools progress beyond their counterparts.

Safe and Supportive Environment

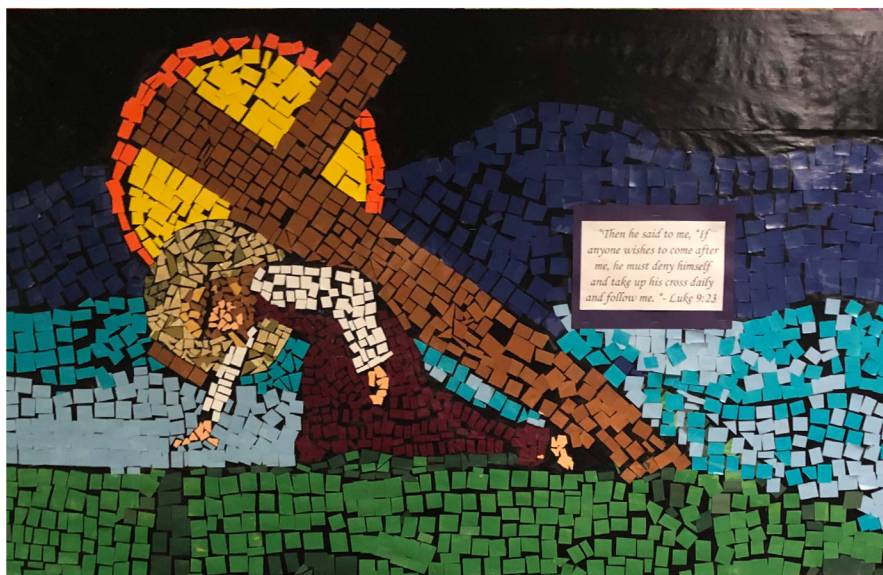
Our schools make safety a top priority and support our students in challenging moments. We teach them empathy toward others, problem-solving skills, and perseverance so they can support each other, adopt a growth mindset, and overcome adversity.

“ALL THAT IS GOOD, ALL THAT IS TRUE, ALL
THAT IS BEAUTIFUL BRINGS US TO GOD.
BECAUSE GOD IS GOOD, GOD IS BEAUTIFUL,
GOD IS THE TRUTH.”

– POPE FRANCIS

WHAT IS catholic immersion

“Catholic Immersion” is actively integrating the Catholic Faith into the entire experience of our students, families, and staff at our Catholic schools. It goes beyond simply identifying as Catholic. We place Christ at the center of all decisions and learning, allowing students to experience Him in the curriculum and in their everyday decision-making. The best way to become fluent in a foreign language is to surround oneself with native speakers and immerse in the language and culture. We aim for a similar kind of experience in our schools—a Catholic culture in which our students and their families cannot help but be influenced by Catholic virtues and the Catholic worldview. At a time when only 31% of Catholics still believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist (Pew Research Center, 2019), it is of the utmost importance to form our families in the Faith.



DID YOU KNOW?

After prayerful consideration and in consultation with Bishop Wack, The Catholic Youth Sports League (CYSL) ceased to hold athletic contests on Sundays in order to observe the Sabbath.

on?



CURRICULUM

From our faith-integrated English and math standards to our interdisciplinary approach that builds basic skills, makes thematic connections across subjects, and teaches critical thinking, our students learn to appreciate the truth, beauty, and goodness of God's creation. The knowledge they gain disposes them to develop an understanding of God at work throughout salvation history, and this informs the moral decisions they face. In short, they learn to see through a Catholic worldview. Our students grow into excellent communicators, able to articulate and express themselves effectively.



SACRAMENTAL DEVOTION

Our students have ample opportunities to attend Mass and grow closer to Christ through adoration, reconciliation, and prayer. Families have opportunities to grow in their faith through the school, and intercessory prayer teams offer prayer for the school.



VIRTUES AND SERVICE

Our students learn about the virtues through our curriculum and have opportunities to apply these virtues and works of mercy through service opportunities, helping the poor and marginalized in a spirit of missionary discipleship. They develop care for each other and our world, seeking to be good citizens in this life with a goal of becoming saints in heaven.



our schools and c

school spotlight

Hurricane Michael hit the Florida Panhandle on October 10, 2018, causing mass destruction. St. John Catholic School in Panama City suffered major damage to its facilities and was forced to temporarily relocate.

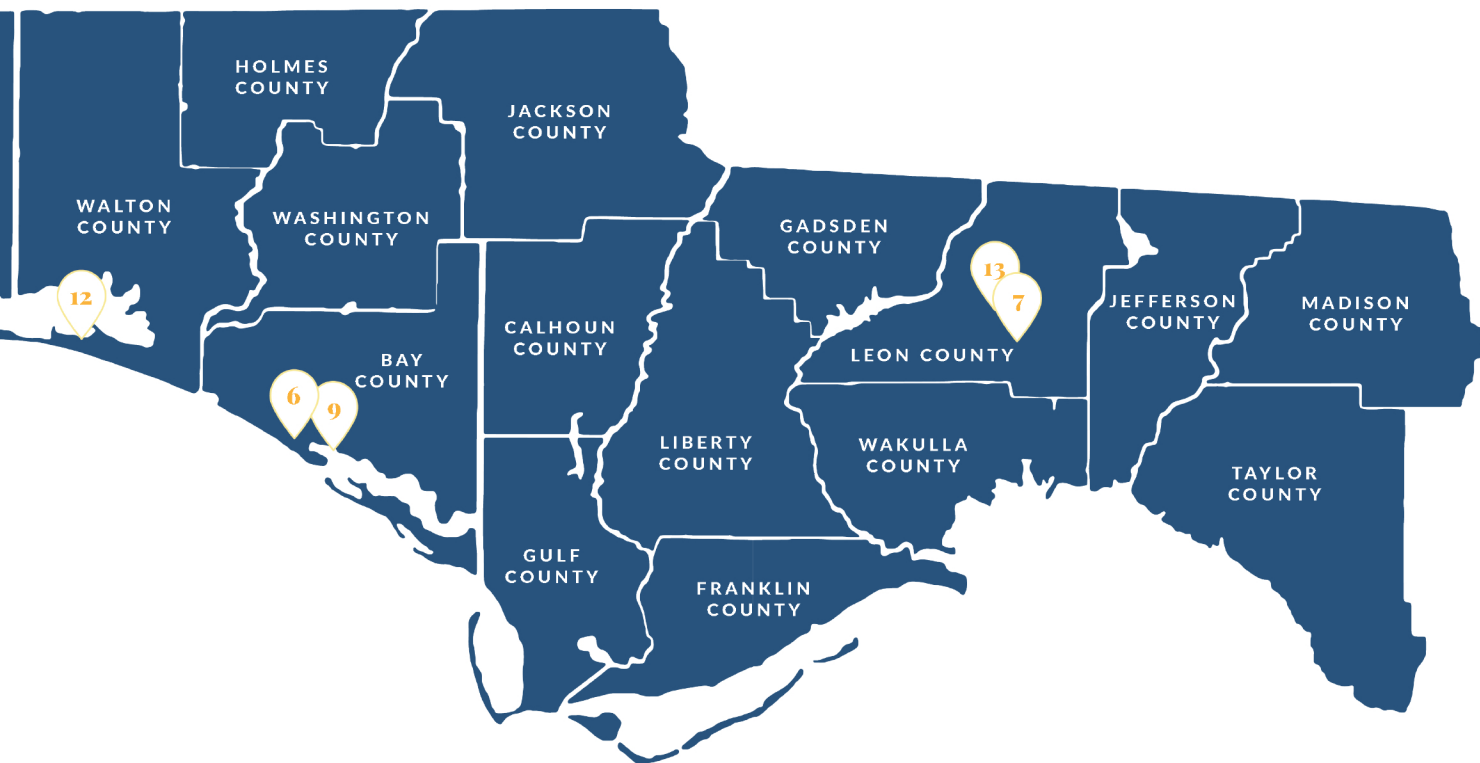
St. Bernadette Parish and Early Learning Center in Panama City Beach were very generous in lending space to St. John for the school to continue to operate. Generous donations and support have helped the school to thrive at St. Bernadette's campus for the semesters needed before moving back to its home campus in Panama City.



ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- 1 Holy Spirit Child Development Academy
- 2 Little Flower Catholic School
- 3 Pensacola Catholic High School
- 4 Sacred Heart Cathedral School
- 5 St. Ann Discovery School
- 8 St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, Pensacola
- 11 St. Paul Catholic School

enters



OKALOOSA COUNTY

10 St. Mary Catholic School

WALTON COUNTY

12 St. Rita Preschool

BAY COUNTY

6 St. Bernadette Child Development Academy

9 St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, Panama City

LEON COUNTY

7 St. John Paul II Catholic High School

13 Trinity Catholic School



the students

Our Catholic schools serve a diverse community of learners from various backgrounds, with the unifying goal of forming future saints. Teachers get to know each of their students, helping foster the unique gifts each child has been given by God. Our schools and early learning centers serve students from infants through twelfth grade. Students thrive in safe and loving environments that inspire them to become the best versions of themselves, growing physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. As one of the largest ministries of our diocese, schools partner with our Bishop and pastors to support parents and guardians in the formation of their children—the next generation of the Church.

DID YOU KNOW?

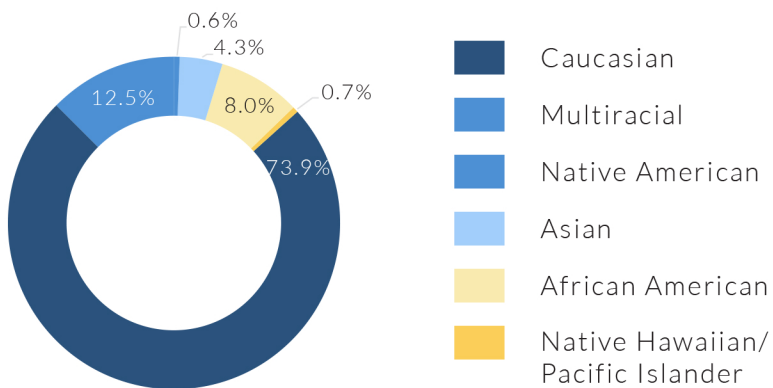
Students as young as kindergarten can now play for their school in CYSL after the league added soccer in 2018-2019.



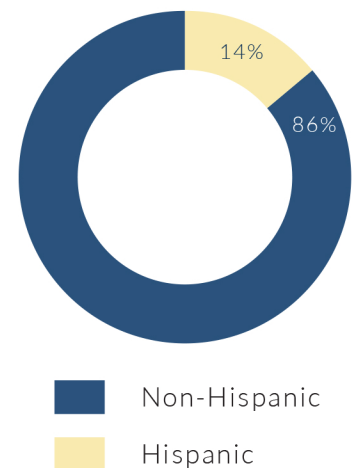
70% of our
enrolled PK-12
students are Catholic.

we serve

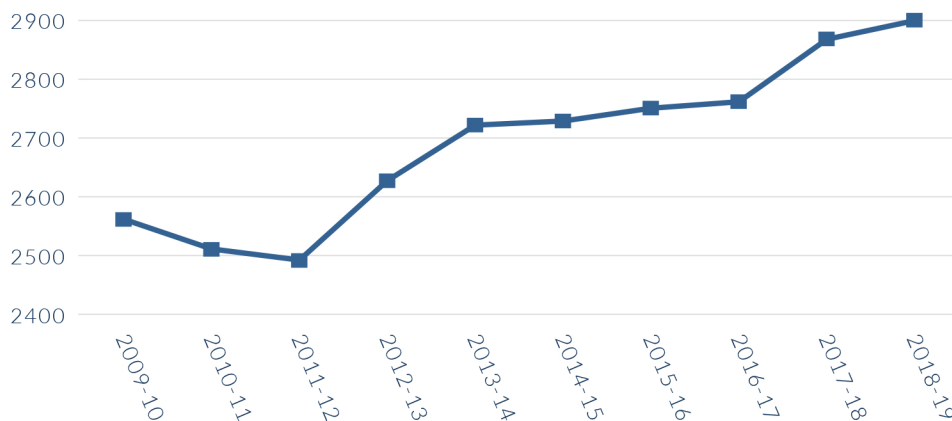
DEMOGRAPHICS BY RACE



DEMOGRAPHICS
BY ETHNICITY



PK-12 Enrollment over Time in Our Nine Schools



morning star

Sacred Heart and St. John in Pensacola offer Morning Star programs to educate students with various special needs while providing them with an authentic Catholic school experience. These students regularly interact with their peers who are not in Morning Star and experience an individualized academic program, taking general education classes where appropriate.

our faculty and staff

Our faculty and staff are the heartbeat of our Catholic schools. The difference they make in the lives of our families cannot be measured; it will be felt for the entirety of our students' lives. They are the role models of faith and service who inspire the next generation.

Teachers work hard to attain and maintain professional credentials, as well as catechetical certification. Our catechetical certification program provides a common formation in the Catholic Faith. All teachers, regardless of subject or personal faith, actively participate in the program.



faculty spotlight

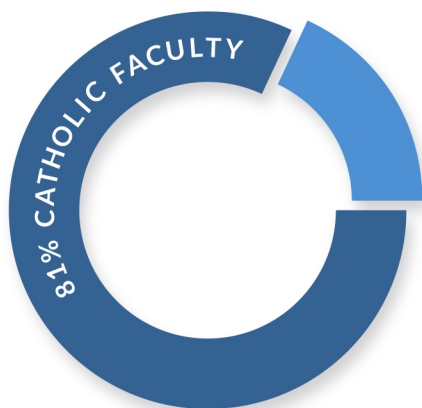
Chris Holcomb and Patricia Young were model Catholic school teachers who felt God calling them to a deeper ministry.

Chris, a 2003 graduate and eight-year veteran of Catholic High, entered the diocesan seminary in Fall 2019. He taught religion and math at Catholic High and religious education at Little Flower Parish.

Patricia, a 2008 graduate and six-year veteran of St. John Paul II, entered the postulancy of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Fall 2019. She taught math and served as athletic director for SJPII.

Return of ACE Teaching Fellows

In the Fall of 2018, Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education re-established its Teaching Fellows program in Pensacola. Four teaching fellows joined the faculty as full-time teachers while they pursue their Masters of Education degrees during the summers at Notre Dame.



DID YOU KNOW?

Faculty and staff have the opportunity through online Professional Learning Communities to interact and share experiences with colleagues from across the diocese.



academic excellence

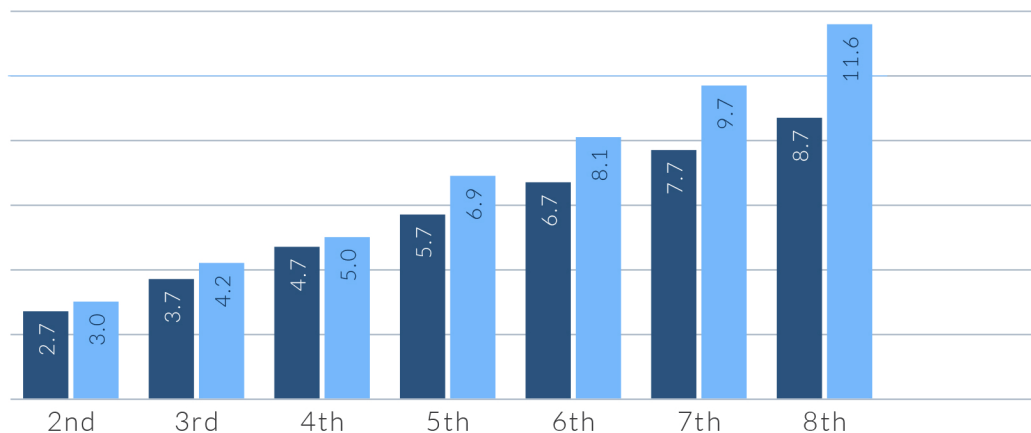
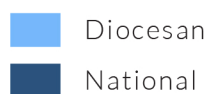
Our Catholic schools offer a rigorous curriculum, teaching fundamental skills, including critical thinking, writing, and advanced use of technology. An important part of our academic program is the integration of the Faith into all subjects as we teach Christ across the curriculum. We seek for students to see the truth, beauty, and goodness in what they are learning.

Our students consistently outperform the national average on standardized testing, and this past year's high school graduates collectively earned eight figures in scholarship money to colleges. Elementary students take the Terra Nova assessments, while high school students take the ACT and SAT. The graphs show the aggregate performance of our students by grade according to grade equivalent, which describes academic performance in terms of grade level and month. For example, if a third grade student taking the Terra Nova at the $\frac{3}{4}$ point of their school year scores a 4.2 on the third grade reading test, this means the student scored as well as a fourth grade student in the second month of the school year if given the same third grade reading test.



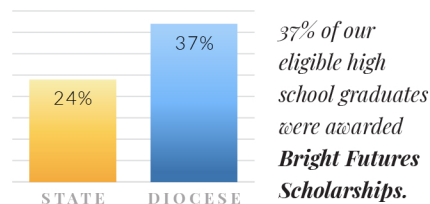
Terra Nova Performance by Grade Equivalent

Total (Reading, Language, Math)





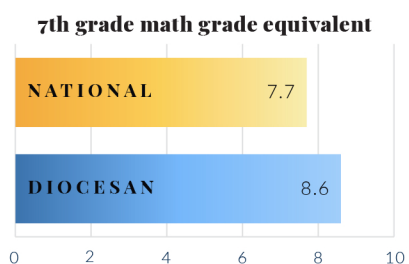
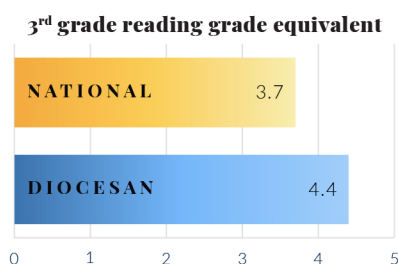
The Class of 2019 completed 32,670 service hours during their years in our Catholic high schools.



On October 5, 2018, our Catholic schools held their first ever **Data Day**. The purpose of this professional development, conducted at each site with a common set of objectives across the diocese, was to break into teams and study student performance on standardized testing, looking for patterns in data and finding areas where students needed to grow. Areas of strengths and weaknesses were identified and strategies were formulated to address these weaknesses at the class and student levels.

\$12,208,054
in scholarships offered

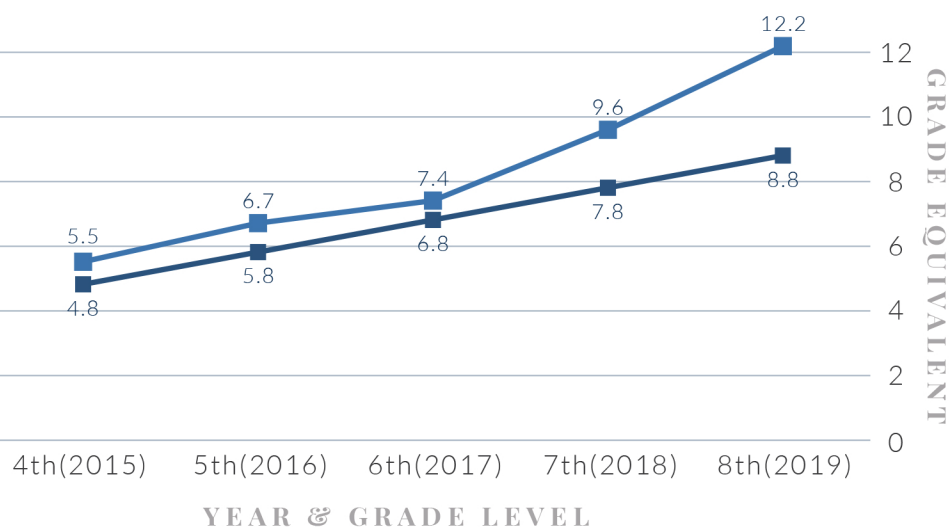
The average amount of scholarship dollars offered per graduate was **\$63,584** - almost double the average four-year tuition for Catholic high schools in our diocese.



8th Grade Class of 2019 Performance Over Time

Academic performance on the IOWA and Terra Nova tests over the past five years for students who spent grades K-8 in our Catholic schools (per Terra Nova-Iowa linking study):

- Students who spent grades K-8 in our Catholic schools
- National Average





accolades in accreditation

Accreditation plays a vital role in validating the excellence of our Catholic schools. Our elementary schools are accredited through the Florida Catholic Conference (FCC), which uses the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools as its guiding principles. Our high schools are accredited through AdvancED, a national accrediting agency.

Much preparation goes into an accreditation self-study and visit, as stakeholders team with staff to evaluate and seek avenues for continuous improvement. The Office for Catholic Schools supports these efforts, culminating in a visiting team from the outside inspecting all aspects of the school.

St. Paul

St. Paul Catholic School became the 8th school in Florida to earn FCC's prestigious STREAM accreditation, reserved for schools that exemplify quality in integrating Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math into a comprehensive curriculum. During the process, the school was commended for its interdisciplinary approach to instruction, connection of the student body with the Eucharist, and effective branding of the school.

Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart completed its midterm three-year accreditation review. The visiting team affirmed the positive trajectory of the school and its progress in continuous improvement. During the process, the school was

commended for the presence of the pastor in the life of the school community, the seamless integration of the Catholic Faith and worldview with liberal arts courses in the Humanities program, and the differentiated curriculum and mainstreaming of Morning Star students.

St. Rita

St. Rita Preschool was the first early learning center in our diocese to earn FCC accreditation. The school was commended for classrooms being well-organized and child-focused, health and safety protocols being in place at an exemplary level, and parent communication being consistent through the use of technology. Our other early learning centers are well into the process of becoming FCC accredited.

school finances

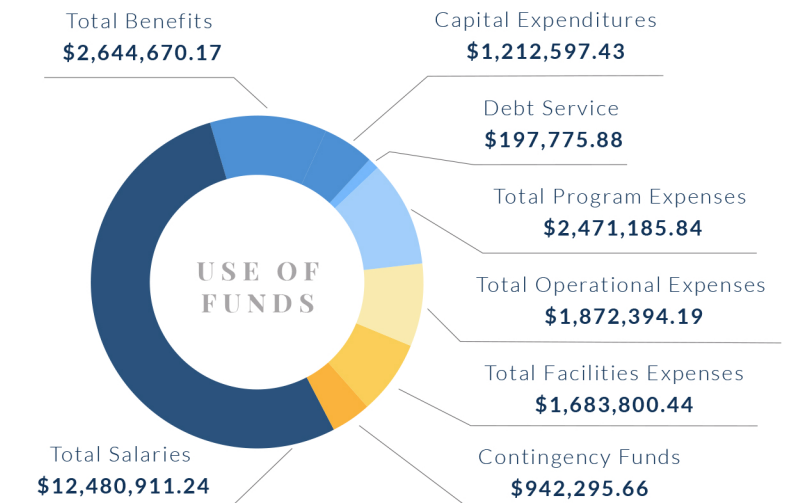
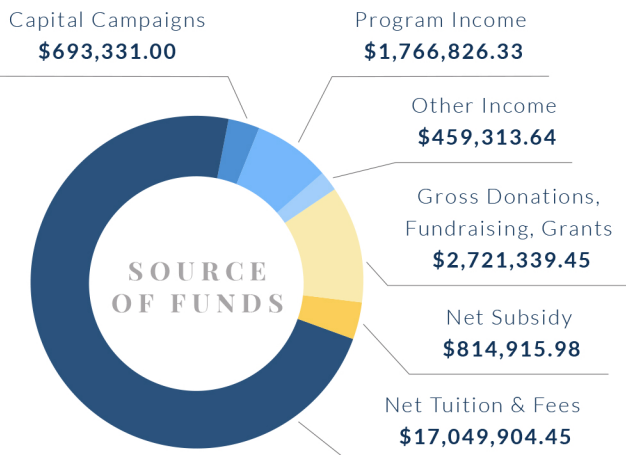
Our Catholic schools and early learning centers practice fiscal responsibility, working closely with their pastors, advisory councils, and the diocesan pastoral center. We seek to be good stewards of our funding, using it to provide quality educational experiences for our students, centered in Christ.

As we seek to keep tuition as low as possible for our families, schools hold fundraisers and annual fund drives to bridge the gap between tuition and the cost to educate students. School families are encouraged to apply for financial aid through the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship and Family Empowerment Scholarship programs. Families may also apply for grants from their school or parish where applicable.



DID YOU KNOW?

According to an analysis by the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, our diocese's Catholic schools saved the State of Florida \$12,636,508.72 during the 2018-2019 school year. This figure is the projected cost of publicly educating all Florida children enrolled in our Catholic schools minus the total value of all state-funded scholarship awards to these children.



total amount of funds: \$23,505,630.85

supporting catholic

How Can I Help?

Promoting by word of mouth is the most powerful form of marketing that a school can have. Encouraging families and friends to explore the possibility of Catholic education for their children could change their lives forever.

Please consider sharing the good news of Catholic education with one child you know who would benefit from being in our schools.



Time, Talent, & Treasure

There are many ways you can make a difference and support the efforts of Catholic education in our diocese.

praying

Lifting up our school families and staffs in your regular prayer life is essential to our continued success.

Our Diocesan Schools Advisory Council founded intercessory prayer teams for each school; contact your school's principal if you would like to join with others in praying for one of our Catholic schools.

TIME

volunteering

Volunteering at a Catholic school is yet another way to make a difference in the lives of our students. Your particular talent or your presence at our school community through volunteerism connect you to a vibrant community of faith that enriches everyone involved. Please reach out to a school if you are interested in service opportunities.

TALENT

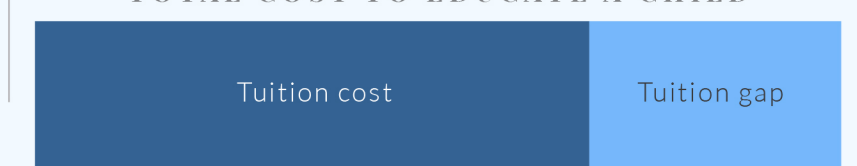
giving

In order to provide Catholic education to as many families as possible, our tuition is lower than the cost to educate a child, which creates a "tuition gap."

Partnering with a Catholic school through its annual fund drive, tuition assistance fund, or through bequests is a tangible way to support the programs of the school or to help a child who may not otherwise be able to experience a Catholic education.

TREASURE

TOTAL COST TO EDUCATE A CHILD



Public schools

scholarship opportunities

There are five programs in the state of Florida which help make Catholic education affordable for a greater number of families.

Scan the QR code or go to ptdiocese.org/scholarships to learn more.

For students who do not qualify for one of the state scholarships, each school offers a limited amount of need-based financial aid grants. Please contact your school's principal to learn more.

*Family Empowerment
Scholarship Annual Maximum
Gross Income Cap*

Household Size	Yearly Income
1	\$37,470
2	\$50,730
3	\$63,990
4	\$77,250
5	\$90,510
6	\$103,770
7	\$117,030
8	\$130,290
9	\$143,550
10	\$156,810
11	\$170,070
12	\$183,330
13	\$196,590

FLORIDA TAX CREDIT (FTC) SCHOLARSHIP

Based on household size and income, the FTC Scholarship allows qualifying families to attend the private school of their choice through scholarships.

GARDINER SCHOLARSHIP

Based on qualifying diagnoses, students with certain special needs can be eligible for an average of \$10,000 in scholarship funds each year to cover approved education-related expenses including private school tuition, tutoring, therapy, and educational technology.

MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP

Based on IEP or 504 Accommodation Plan; students with specific special needs who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Accommodation and have previously attended a public school can be eligible to attend the private school of their choice with a scholarship up to full tuition.

VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN (VPK)

A program providing state funding to help every 4-year-old in Florida to attend the Pre-K of his or her choice, in order to build a strong foundation that ensures kindergarten readiness.

THE FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP (FES)

FES is Florida's first voucher program for low and middle-income students. Like the McKay Scholarship for students with special needs, FES is funded from the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), an operational formula that funds K-12 student choices in district schools, charter schools, and private schools. The scholarships will average between \$6,775 and \$7,250 depending on the grade level and county of the student. The program is projected to cost about \$130 million in its first year, which is less than the cost to educate the students at a traditional public school. Students must have attended a Florida public school for the prior school year. Exceptions include students entering kindergarten, foster children, and children of members of the United States Armed Forces who transfer to Florida with permanent change of station orders. Students must be living in a household earning at, or below, 300 percent of the Federal poverty level, or in foster care or out-of-home care. That equals \$77,250 for a student living in a household of four.



MIKE JUHAS
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

JANE RHEDIN
Administrative Assistant

DONNA BASS
*Certification and International
Students*

TONY HOWARD
CYSL Director

**2018-19 DIOCESAN
SCHOOLS ADVISORY
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Mike Juhas, ex officio
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Design by Anna Guerin