

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of
PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE

Catholic Schools

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020



Mission Statement

Filled with faith, hope, and love, the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee's Catholic schools and early learning centers seek to glorify God by challenging and supporting students as they strive to become joyful scholars and saints through a rigorous academic curriculum as well as complete immersion in the Catholic pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always! Once again, it is a pleasure to present to you this Annual Report from the Office for Catholic Schools. Providing this information is vitally important so that we can mark our progress and plan for the future. To God be all glory and praise.

Here is one of my favorite quotes from Blessed Basil Moreau (the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, my religious community):

"We shall always place education side by side with instruction; the mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart. While we prepare useful citizens for society, we shall likewise do our utmost to prepare citizens for heaven." (Circular Letter 36)

All schools teach mathematics, science, history, and the arts, and our Catholic schools do this as well as – or better than – anyone. However, a Catholic school also attempts to form the conscience and heart of the child. Our goal is not only academic achievement and honors, but also to prepare our young people to know, love, and serve God. It is a great honor for all of us to assist you in the education and formation of your children.

Thank you for all that you do to support our schools with your prayers and your financial assistance. May we strive to be good students and disciples of Christ the Teacher, so that we may one day join him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

In Christ's Peace,

Most Rev. William A. Wack, CSC
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee



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. Our schools worked so hard in the face of new challenges experienced with the onset of COVID-19, and they all rose to these challenges. This report will give you a feel for the successes we had prior to the pandemic, as well as the incredible work done by the teams at each of our schools and centers after the pandemic's onset. It is an honor for me to share this story with you.

Our Catholic schools exist for the sole purpose of leading families to Christ through a top-notch education, in which the Catholic Faith permeates all facets of what we do. We refer to this approach as "Catholic Immersion." We work tirelessly with parents to build, in our students, the knowledge and personal experience of Christ. By encountering Christ in all aspects of their experience, students become master communicators of the written and spoken word, possessing the ability to articulate and defend their faith once they graduate from our schools.

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 coming to campus events.

Yours in Christ,

Mike Juhas, Superintendent





"Let's remember that we too must become saints."

BLESSED CLELIA MERLONI

DID YOU KNOW?

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

What is Catholic Immersion?

The purpose of Catholic education is to educate students in a way that draws them closer to God and guides them along the path to becoming saints. We build a Catholic culture in our diocese through a philosophy called Catholic Immersion. Just like learning another language, where immersion is the most effective way to become fluent, we immerse our students in the Catholic Faith in all aspects of their education, helping them to know Jesus and apply His teachings to their lives.





TRUTH, GOODNESS, AND BEAUTY

Our Catholic schools use Catholic curriculum standards to integrate the Catholic Faith into a rigorous academic program. By integrating Christ across the curriculum, students learn to appreciate truth, goodness, and beauty in their lessons and experience a Catholic worldview while developing critical thinking skills.

TEACHING THE VIRTUES

Students learn about the virtues and works of mercy in their curriculum, applying them through service opportunities. This approach to social-emotional learning reinforces Gospel values and gives students the interpersonal skills and empathy necessary to be good citizens and missionary disciples.

ENCOUNTERING THE RISEN LORD

At a time when only 31% of Catholics still believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist (Pew Research Center, 2019), we actively work to help students know Jesus and build habits of prayer. Our students have ample opportunities to encounter Christ through Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, and prayer. Families are supported by the schools and early learning centers as they grow in their faith. Intercessory prayer teams pray for each school, and pastors work closely with faculty/staff to enhance their faith life.

PREPARING STUDENTS TO BE LIGHTS TO THE WORLD

Our academic programs are designed to form master communicators of the written and spoken word. Coupled with a philosophy of Catholic Immersion, these programs enable students to graduate from our Catholic schools equipped to articulate and defend their faith in the world.



Teaching and Learning During COVID

During the Spring of 2020, our Catholic schools and centers shut down on-campus operations because of the COVID-19 pandemic. School administrators from across the diocese teamed with the Office for Catholic Schools to create a Continuity of Learning and Community Plan to ensure that instructional quality, faith-based instruction, and a school community were maintained. This plan provided direction to faculty/staff and families, and it served as a model for many other dioceses in developing their own plans.

Faculty and staff rose to the occasion and delivered high quality lessons through



)-19

eLearning. Many hours were spent connecting with families virtually, and school counselors worked across school boundaries to provide emotional support for students coping with these unprecedented challenges. Students learned to adapt to the new environment and progressed through the curriculum for a very successful spring semester. Parents were given a unique window into classroom instruction, and their praise of the quality instruction provided by faculty and staff provided a constant reminder as to why they chose to support the mission of Catholic education in their careers.



Our Schools &

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- 1 Holy Spirit Child Development Academy
- 2 Little Flower Catholic School
- 3 Pensacola Catholic High School and Mother Clelia Morning Star 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

OKALOOSA COUNTY

- 10 St. Mary Catholic School

WALTON COUNTY

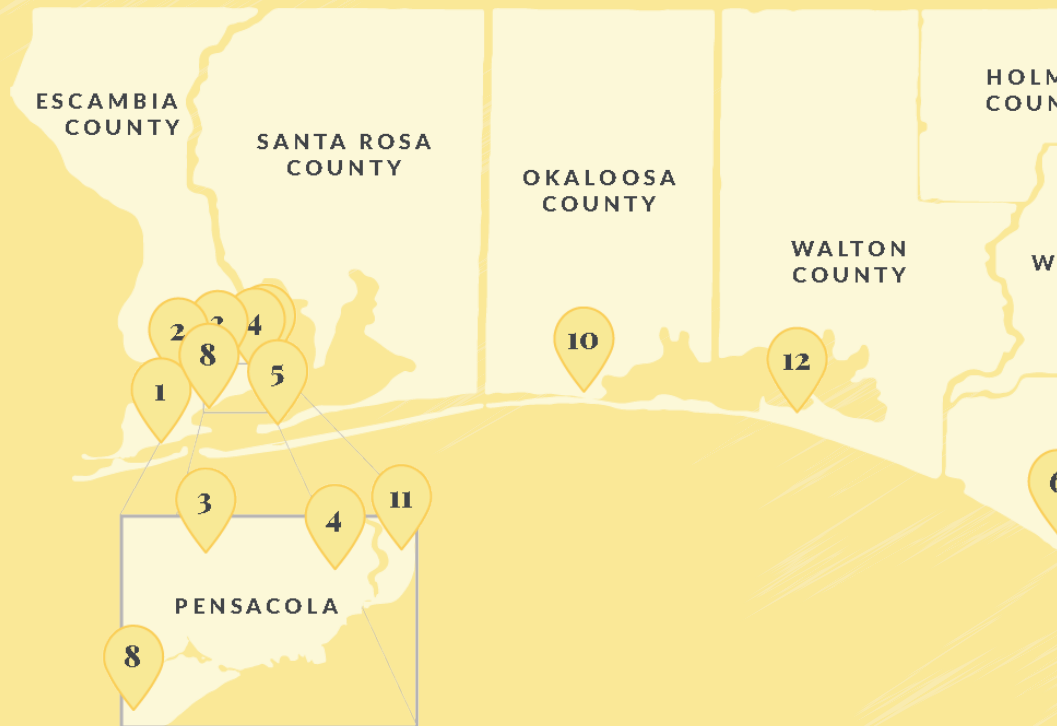
- 12 St. Rita Preschool

BAY COUNTY

- 6 St. Bernadette Child Development Academy
- 9 St John Catholic Academy, Panama City

LEON COUNTY

- 7 St. John Paul II Catholic High School
- 13 Trinity Catholic School

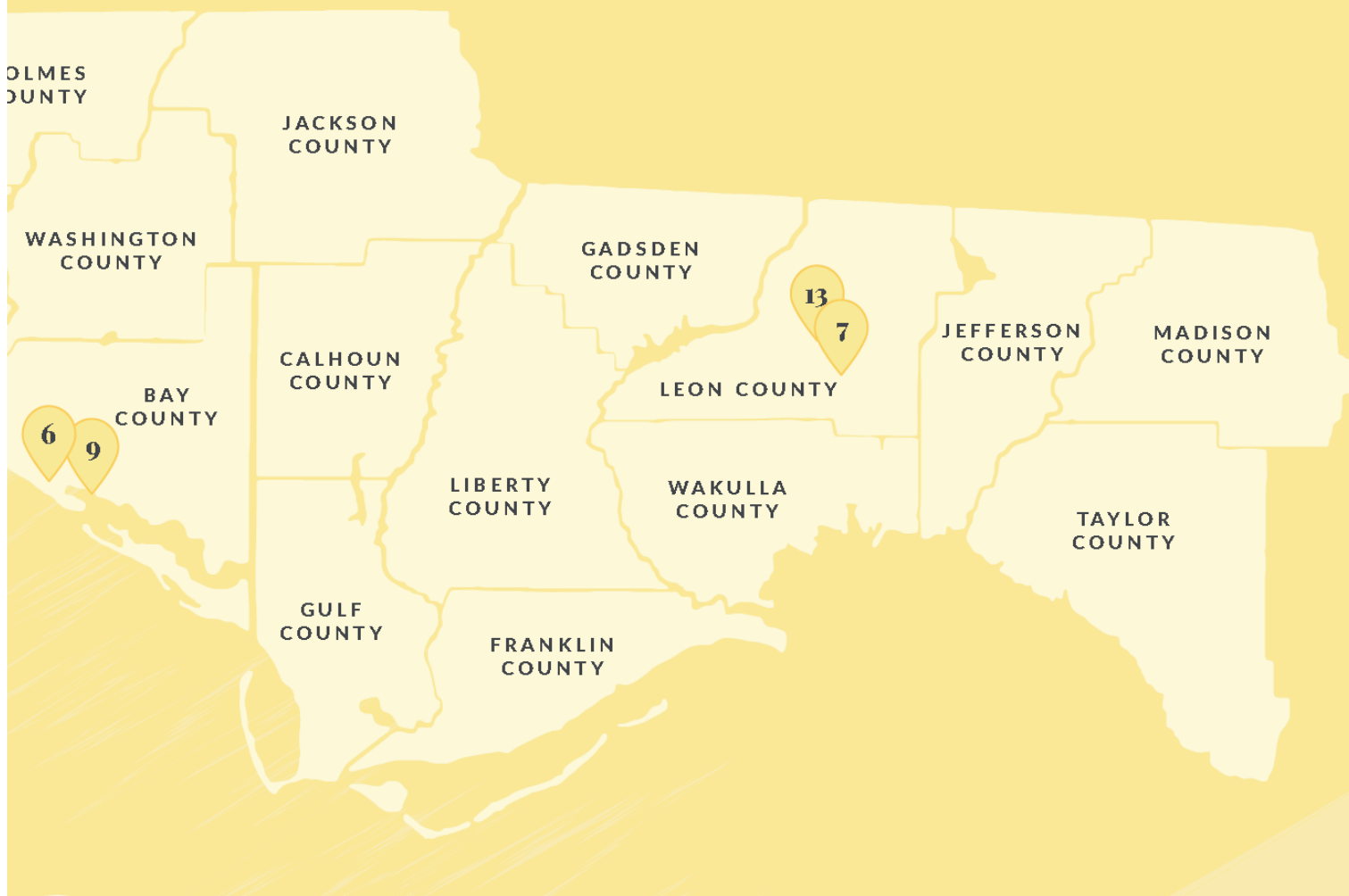


Building for the Future

The 2019-20 school year saw plenty of construction needed to support our growing schools. New construction and capital projects began on behalf of Pensacola Catholic High, St. Paul, Sacred Heart, Trinity, and St. John Paul II. St. John Catholic Academy completed restorations to its Panama City location during the summer of 2020.



& Preschools





The Students We Serve

Our Catholic schools and early learning centers serve a diverse community of learners from varying backgrounds, always with the goal of forming future saints. Teachers mentor our students in order to guide them toward achieving their full potential. We serve students from infants through twelfth grade. Students thrive in a safe and loving environment that assists them in growing physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. As one of the largest ministries of our diocese, schools and early learning centers partner with our Bishop and pastors to support parents and guardians in the formation of their children, who are the next generation of the Church.

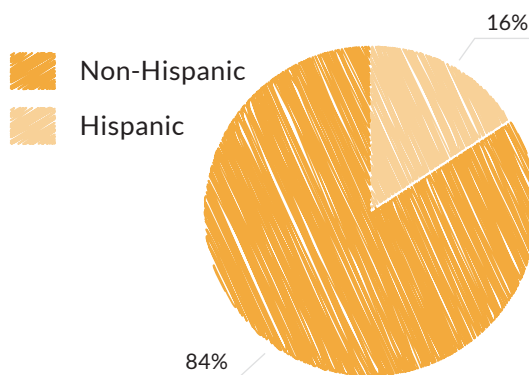


A NEW SCHOOL APPROVED!

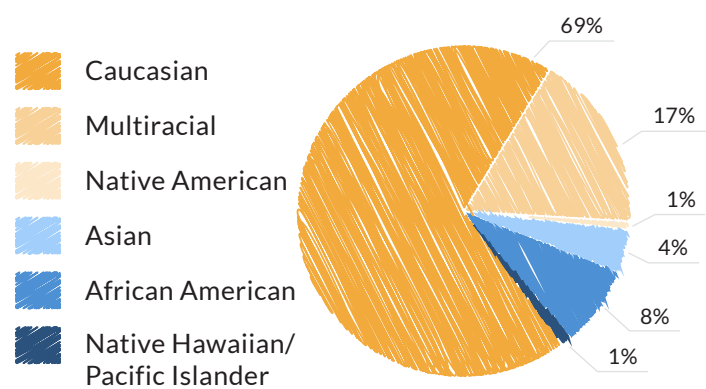
Mother Clelia Morning Star High School was approved by Bishop Wack in the Spring of 2020, opening in September 2020. This new school serves high school students with special needs. Mother Clelia joins Sacred Heart and St. John in Pensacola with Morning Star programs. It is named after Blessed Clelia Merloni, foundress of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



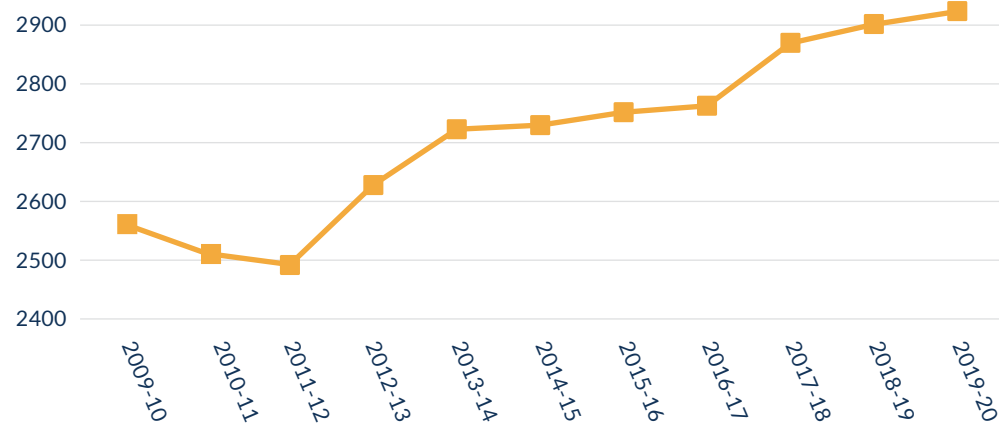
Demographics by Ethnicity



Demographics by Race



PK-12 Enrollment over Time in Our Nine Schools



Our Faculty a

"Teaching is a beautiful job, as it allows you to see the growth day by day of people entrusted to your care."

POPE FRANCIS



The heartbeat of our Catholic schools and early learning centers exists within our faculty and staff. The impact they make in the lives of our families cannot be measured; they nurture our students and model Christ, the master teacher, in the classroom. They provide a safe classroom environment where students adopt a growth mindset and seek their full potential.

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.



and Staff



78%

OF OUR
FACULTY IS
CATHOLIC

87%

FACULTY
RETENTION
RATE

DID YOU KNOW?

The diocese held its first ever on-site Professional Learning Community day for middle school liberal arts teachers, bringing together instructors from across the diocese to learn from each other's best practices and to collaborate on common objectives.

Staff Spotlight

25 YEARS SERVING THE OFFICE
FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Donna Bass joined the Office for Catholic Schools in 1995. She has faithfully served our Catholic schools and is a bedrock to the community. Mrs. Bass specializes in teacher certification, helping them earn and maintain their Florida teaching credentials. We thank Donna for her service and the impact she has made and continues to make on our schools and early learning centers.



Academic Excellence

Our Catholic schools teach a rigorous curriculum, building from fundamental skills, including critical thinking, writing, and math facts. An important part of our academic program is the integration of the Faith into all subjects, which we call “Christ across the Curriculum.” We build in our students a desire to become lifelong learners with a disposition toward seeing the truth, goodness, and beauty in what they learn.

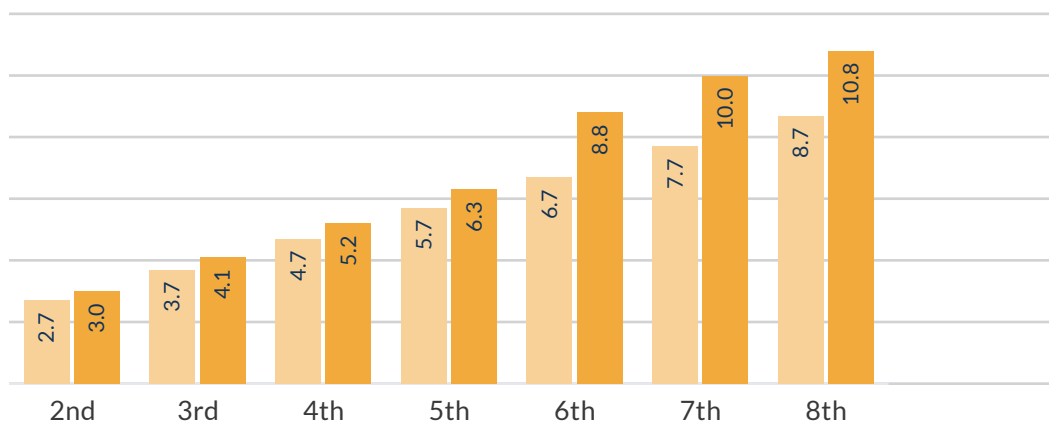
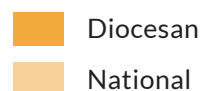
Our students consistently outperform the national average on standardized testing, and this past year’s high school graduates collectively earned eight figures in scholarship money to colleges. Elementary students take the Terra Nova assessments, while high school students take the ACT and SAT. The graphs 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 his or her 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.

DATA DAY

Each year, our teachers participate in a training day called Data Day. The purpose of this professional development, done at each diocesan school with a common set of objectives, is to break into teams and study student performance on standardized testing, looking for patterns in data and finding areas where students need to grow. Areas of strengths and weaknesses are identified and strategies are formulated to address weaknesses at the class and student level.

Terra Nova Performance by Grade Equivalent

Total (Reading, Language, Math)



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE
100%

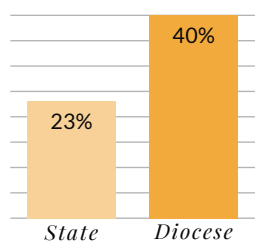


Average amount of scholarship dollars offered per graduate was

\$89,864

This is more than double the average four-year tuition for Catholic high schools in our diocese.

Bright Future Scholarships Awarded to Eligible Graduates



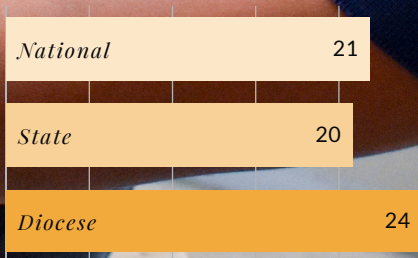
Class of 2020 high school graduates completed **31,230** service hours during their years in our Catholic high schools.

8th Grade Class of 2019 Performance Over Time

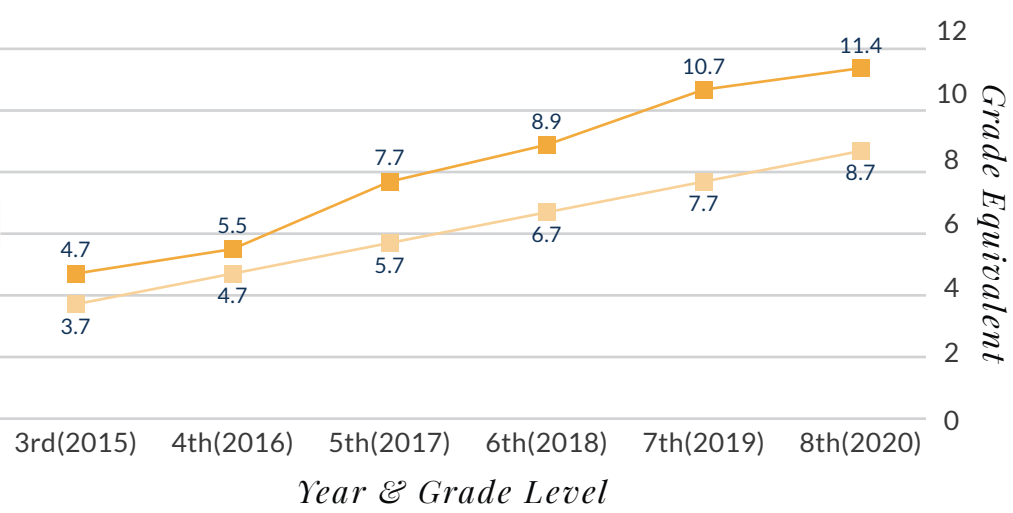
Academic performance on the IOWA and Terra Nova tests over the past five years for students who spent grades K-8 in our Catholic schools (per Terra Nova-Iowa linking study):

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

Class of 2020 Average ACT



Class of 2020 Average SAT



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 also accredited through regional agencies.

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

ST JOHN PAUL II

St. John Paul II Catholic High School earned high marks during its accreditation renewal. During the process, the school was commended for its core values being a lived reality at the school, for the accessibility of the school administration and faculty, and for its college advising program.



CYSL registrations grew by 23% over our three seasons held in 2019-20 compared to 2018-19.



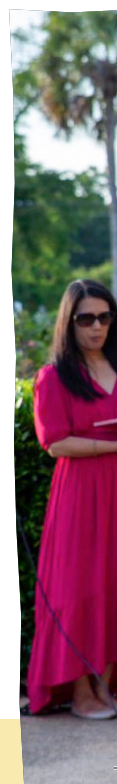
CYSL

The Catholic Youth Sports League is a faith-based athletic venture of the Office for Catholic Schools that serves Pensacola students from our Catholic schools and other non-public schools in grades K-8. CYSL offered basketball, cheerleading, flag football, tackle football, and volleyball in 2019-20. The soccer season was cut short and our annual track meet postponed due to COVID-19. We look forward to a full slate of sports in 2020-21.

While seeking excellence on the field or court, CYSL places the highest priority on sportsmanship and growing in faith through athletic competition and physical fitness. We do not play on Sundays to honor the Sabbath. We partner with Notre Dame's Play Like a Champion Today program to instill Catholic values and sportsmanship in our students, coaches, and parents.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION BY SEASON

Fall (flag, tackle, cheer, volleyball)	486
Winter (basketball)	572
Spring (soccer)	512



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 always seek to be good stewards of our funding, using it to enhance the Christ-centered educational experience of our students.

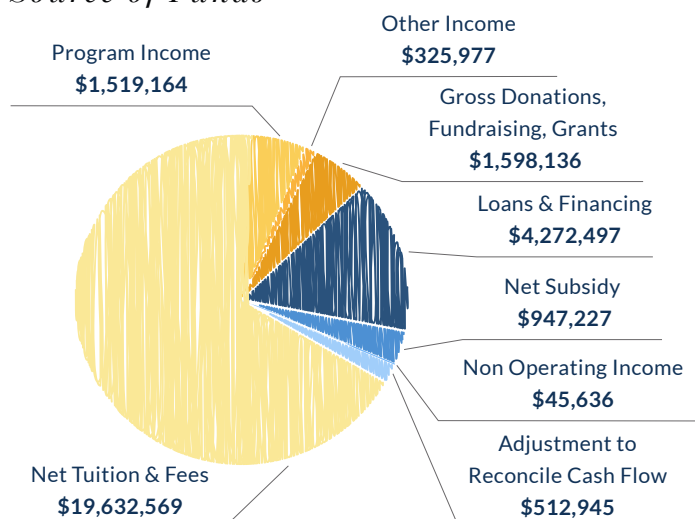
As we seek to keep tuition as low as possible for our families while recognizing the fantastic job performed by our faculty and staff, schools and early learning centers hold fundraisers and annual fund drives to bridge the gap between tuition and the cost to educate a student. School families are encouraged 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?

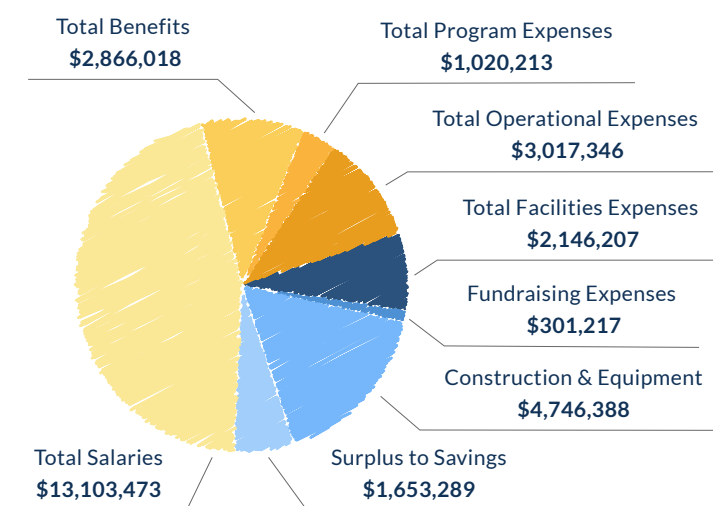
According to the analysis by the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, our diocese's Catholic schools saved the State of Florida **\$5,977,124** during the 2019-20 school year. This figure is the projected cost of publicly educating all Florida children enrolled in our Catholic schools minus the total value of all state-funded scholarships awarded to these children.

Total Amount of Funds: \$28,854,151

Source of Funds



Use of Funds





Supporting Catholic Schools

How Can I Help?

PROMOTING

Word of mouth is the most powerful form of marketing a school could have. Encouraging families and friends to explore the possibility of Catholic education for their child could change a life forever.

Please share this information with families you know who would benefit from Catholic education.

Time, Talent, and Treasure

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

TIME - PRAYING

Lifting up our Catholic schools and early learning centers in your regular prayer life is essential to our continued success.

Our Diocesan Schools Advisory Council established intercessory prayer teams for each school; contact schools@ptdiocese.org if you would like more information about joining an intercessory prayer team.



TALENT - VOLUNTEERING

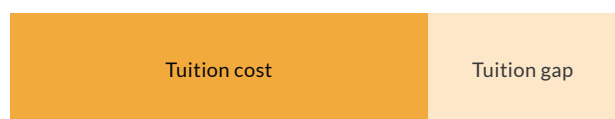
Volunteering at a Catholic school is yet another way to make a difference and advance the mission of our Catholic schools and early learning centers. Your particular talent or your presence to our school community through volunteerism connects you to a vibrant community of faith that enriches everyone involved. Please reach out to a school if you are interested in service opportunities.

TREASURE - GIVING

In order to provide Catholic education to as many families as possible, our tuition is lower than the cost to educate a child, creating 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 whose family would not otherwise experience the fruits of Catholic education.

Total Cost to Educate a Child



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 full tuition 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	\$38,280
2	\$51,720
3	\$65,160
4	\$78,600
5	\$92,040
6	\$105,480
7	\$118,920
8	\$132,360
9	\$145,800
10	\$159,240
11	\$172,680
12	\$186,120
13	\$199,560



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)

The Family Empowerment Scholarship (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 \$6,249 and \$6,944, depending on the grade level and county of the student. Students must have attended a Florida public school for the prior school year unless entering kindergarten, a foster child, or a child of a member of the United States Armed Forces who transfers 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.



DID YOU KNOW?

A family of four earning **\$78,600** or less may qualify for the Family Empowerment Scholarship!

2019-20 DSAC (DIOCESAN SCHOOLS ADVISORY COUNCIL) MEMBERS

Shawn Salamida, Chair
Greg Fayard
Chez Filippini

Fr. Doug Halsema
Leslie Henderson
Karen Manning

Fr. Kevin McQuone
Dr. Will Simmons
Elizabeth Snow

Eric Thorn
Bruce Watson
Mike Juhas, ex officio



Mike Juhas
*Superintendent of
Catholic Schools*

Jane Rhedin
Administrative Assistant

Donna Bass
*Certification and
International Students*

Tony Howard
CYSL Director

Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Office for Catholic Schools
11 North B St. Pensacola FL, 32502 | (850) 435-3540 | ptdiocese.org

Report Design by Anna Guerin