



Catholic Schools

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



DIOCESSE OF PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE
OFFICE *for* CATHOLIC SCHOOLS





OUR MISSION

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,

Whenever I write a letter for an annual report such as this one, I am reminded of the way the President of the United States addresses Congress in the State of the Union address: “The state of the Union is strong!” Well, I can say the same thing about our schools. They are experiencing growth and grace, and they are the boast of our diocese.

Our overall enrollment has been increasing for the last couple of years, and we are approaching a record-high number of students. Some of our schools have waiting lists, and we are not able to accept everyone who applies. Even though a few of our schools are not yet at capacity, most are seeing an increase right now. Why is this happening? Because of a confluence of reasons:

First and foremost, our schools have a reputation for excellence. The students in our grade schools as a whole are testing much higher than their peers who are in other (public) schools. Further, we aim to form the consciences of our students, focusing on the Faith as well as on academics. Other factors which are helping our numbers include the expansion of the “Step Up For Students” program, the quality of our teachers and principals, and discontent that some have with what is being taught in our community schools. Families who choose Catholic schools do so because they believe that any sacrifice they may face is clearly worth it, in order that their child(ren) may learn in an environment of faith and love.

Recently, we have another metric by which to assess how we are doing in our schools: the number of converts to the Catholic Faith. Our teachers and staff have stepped up their efforts to encourage their students to consider the Faith if they are not already Catholic. I am delighted to report that we have seen many baptisms, First Communions, and conversions in the last couple of years! It really is beautiful when a young person expresses their desire to join the Faith and thus respond to God’s call in their life.

Thank you for your prayers and your support of our Catholic schools. Of course, the vast majority of the funding comes from tuition, but they also receive financial support from the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA) and from our parishes. Together we are “educating the mind and forming the hearts” of our children.

God bless you,

+William A. Wack

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



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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, I’m pleased to share with you the successes of the past school year, made possible by our faculty and staff, administrators, and pastors. They spent countless hours in service of our Lord for the growth and development of our students. This report will give you a feel for the incredible work done by the teams at each of our schools and centers. It is an honor for me to share their story with you.

Our Catholic schools exist for the sole purpose of leading families to Christ through a rigorous education where the Catholic Faith permeates all facets of what we do, which we refer to as Catholic immersion. By encountering Christ in all aspects of the student experience, our students grow in knowledge and personal relationship with Christ, aiming to be 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 future saints, instilling the hunger and tools in our students to be the best versions of themselves they can be.

As you learn more about our Catholic schools and early learning centers by reading this report, we invite you to engage with us by visiting our websites and social media and by coming to campus events.

Yours in Christ,

Michael P. Juhas

Mike Juhas, Superintendent



A young girl with dark hair, wearing a green Catholic school uniform, is focused on reading a booklet titled "Stations of the Cross". She is outdoors, and other children and booklets are visible in the background, suggesting a group activity or lesson. The booklet she is holding features a religious illustration. The background is slightly blurred, showing other children and more booklets, some with the same title.

MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH

Catholic Immersion

The purpose of Catholic education is to form 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.

FORMATION THROUGH TRUTH, BEAUTY, AND GOODNESS

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, beauty, and goodness in their lessons and experience a Catholic worldview while developing critical thinking skills. Intercessory prayer teams pray for each school, and pastors work closely with faculty and staff to enhance their faith lives.

ENCOUNTERING THE RISEN LORD AND BUILDING VIRTUE

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. Students learn about the virtues and works of mercy in their curriculum, applying them through service opportunities. This virtues-based curriculum reinforces Gospel values and gives students the interpersonal skills and empathy necessary to be servant leaders and active participants in their faith. Families are supported by the schools and early learning centers as they grow closer to Christ in their homes.

MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP BY ARTICULATING AND DEFENDING THE FAITH

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. Formed in a school culture that stresses love of God and love of neighbor, students are naturally drawn to care for others and to invite them into a deeper relationship with Christ.

A group of children in school uniforms are gathered around a book, looking at it intently. The children are of various ethnicities and are wearing blue and green uniforms. The background is a solid dark blue color with several thin, parallel gold lines running diagonally across it.

POPE FRANCIS

“Catholic education is also evangelization:
bearing witness to the joy of the

Gospel

and its power to renew our
communities and provide
hope and strength in
facing wisely the
challenges of
the present
time.”



Over the past school year,
29 students in our schools
joined the Catholic Church.



BISHOP WACK'S

Pastoral Letter



Scan this QR code to read
Bishop Wack's Pastoral letter
on the diocesan website.

PTDIOCESE.ORG/PASTORAL-LETTER

In November 2021, Bishop Wack wrote a pastoral letter on evangelization. This letter covers the need for evangelization in our times and the importance of walking with others on their faith journey.

Our Catholic schools took to heart this call to evangelization. Faculty and staff share the joy of the Gospel and give accounts of their faith. School families are invited to Mass and to pray together. Our goal is to continue witnessing Christ to others within and outside of our community into the future.

Vocations

AND DISCIPLESHIP RALLY

On the Monday of Holy Week in 2023, the 7th and 8th grade students of our Catholic schools gathered together at St. Paul Parish in Pensacola for the first-ever Diocesan Vocations and Discipleship Rally, in a collaborative effort of the Office for Catholic Schools and Diocesan Vocations Office.

Students spent the day with the diocesan seminarians

and several religious and priests learning Lectio Divina, hearing vocations talks and spiritual music, spending fellowship time with their peers, going to Reconciliation, and worshipping God in Eucharistic Adoration, culminating in Mass with Bishop Wack.

Student feedback was very positive, and we hope to hold this event every other year.

**“Now more than ever,
our God calls us to be
disciples of his Son, and
apostles who bring the
Good News to the world.”**

BISHOP WILLIAM WACK, CSC



Academic Performance

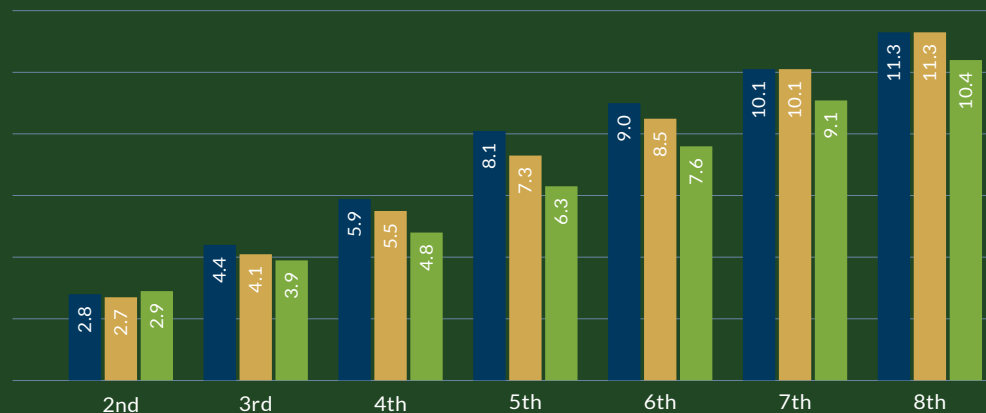
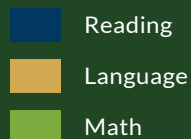
Our Catholic schools teach a rigorous curriculum, building from fundamental skills, including critical thinking, writing, and math facts. Catholic immersion, an important part of our academic program, is the integration of the Catholic Faith into all subjects. We build in our students a desire to become lifelong learners with a disposition toward seeing the truth, beauty, and goodness in what they learn and the tools to be effective communicators of the written and spoken word, able to articulate and defend their faith.



STANDARDIZED TESTING

Our students consistently outperform the national average on standardized testing, and this past year's high school graduates collectively earned almost \$20,000,000 in scholarships offered by 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 3/5 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



ADDRESSING LEARNING GAPS

In a time where nationally, Catholic schools surpassed public schools in learning loss recovery, our Catholic schools addressed learning gaps and had many success stories. The following graph shows how our students fared over a four-year period.



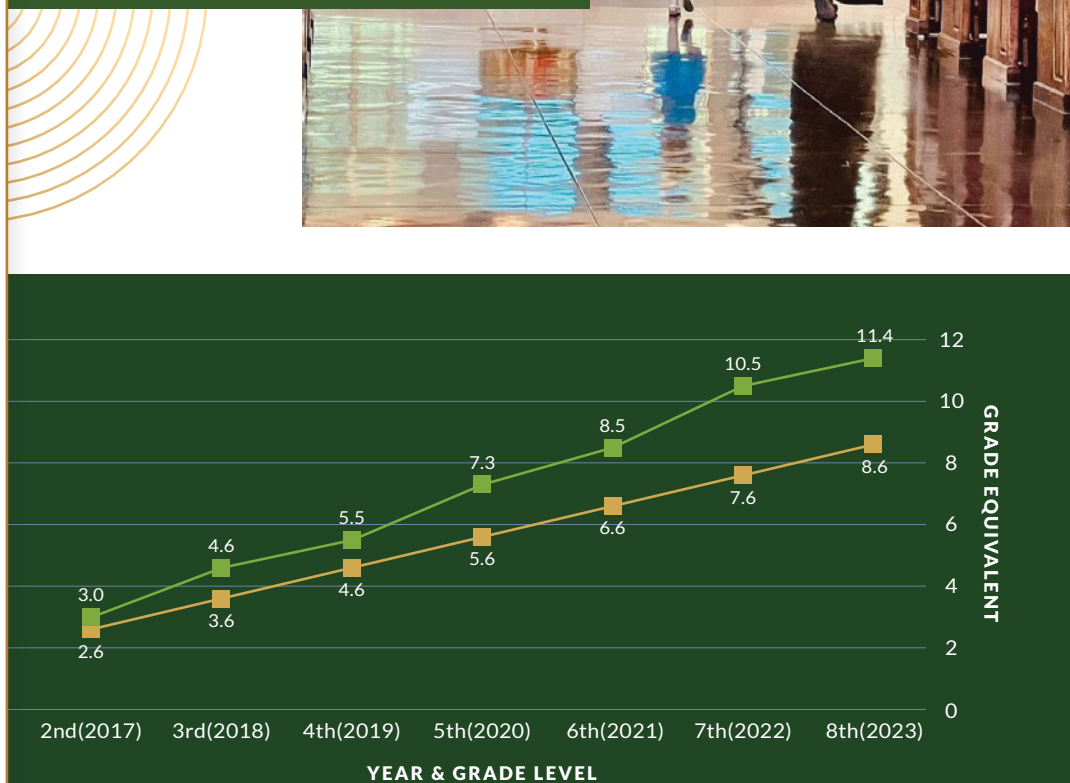
Longitudinal Growth over Time on Terra Nova by Grade Level Equivalent



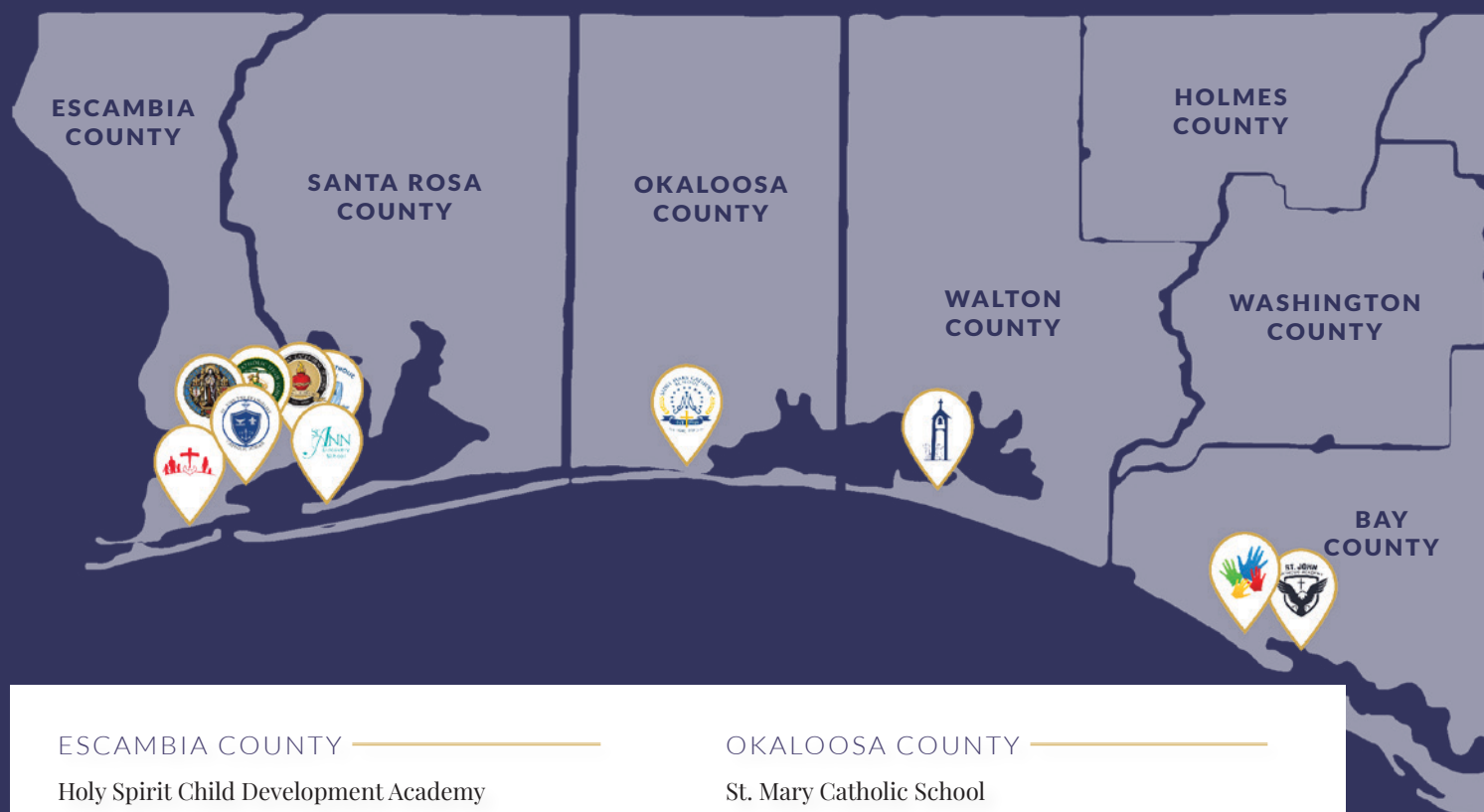
8th Grade Class of 2023 Performance over Time

Academic performance on the Terra Nova and Iowa tests over the past seven 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



Our Schools and Preschools



ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Holy Spirit Child Development Academy

Little Flower Catholic School

Pensacola Catholic High School

Mother Clelia Morning Star High School

Sacred Heart Cathedral School

St. John the Evangelist Catholic School

St. Paul Catholic School

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

St. Ann Discovery School

OKALOOSA COUNTY

St. Mary Catholic School

WALTON COUNTY

St. Rita Catholic Preschool

BAY COUNTY

St. Bernadette Child Development Academy

St. John Catholic Academy

LEON COUNTY

St. John Paul II Catholic High School

Trinity Catholic School



Universal school choice comes to Florida

In the Spring of 2023, the Florida Legislature passed universal school choice legislation, which was signed by our governor. This allows for all children in Florida to be eligible for a scholarship to help cover most of the cost of attending the school of their choice.



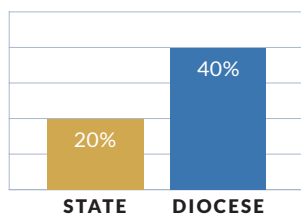


Did you know?

Members of our high school Class of 2023 completed 27,204 service hours during their high school careers.

BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, forty percent of our eligible high school graduates were awarded Bright Futures Scholarships, well above the statewide average of twenty percent.



100%
GRADUATION RATE

98%
CONTINUING
EDUCATION OR
ENTERING MILITARY

\$19,322,517

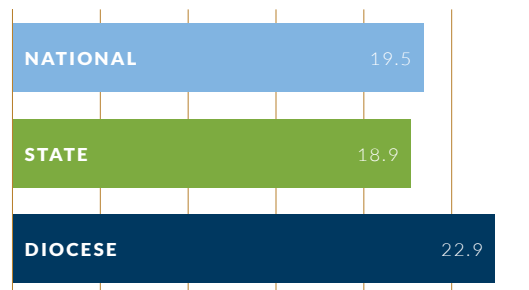
IN SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

The average amount of scholarship dollars offered per graduate was **\$100,638**. This is more than double the average four-year tuition for Catholic high schools in our diocese.

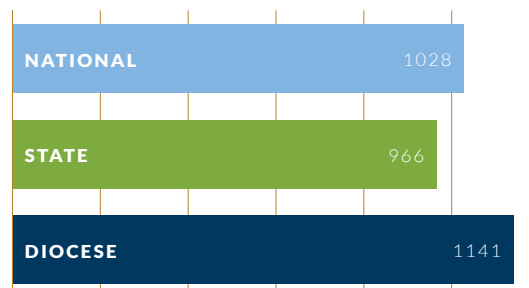


Eight members of our high schools' graduating Class of 2023 earned the prestigious **NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST DISTINCTION** from the College Board!

CLASS OF 2023 AVERAGE ACT



CLASS OF 2023 AVERAGE SAT

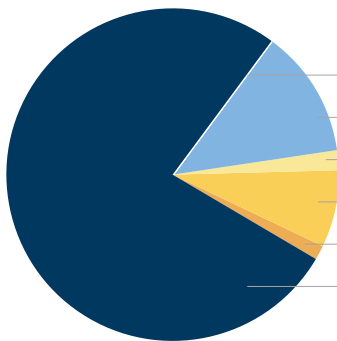


School Finances

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.

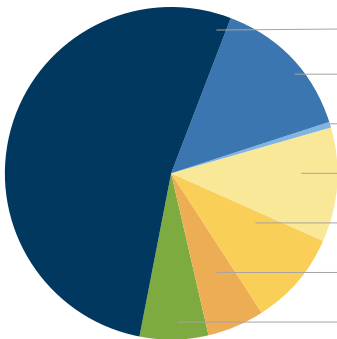
As we seek to keep tuition as low as possible for our families while recognizing the fantastic work performed by our faculty and staff, schools and early learning centers hold fundraisers and annual fund drives to bridge the gap between tuition and the cost to educate a student. School families are encouraged to apply for scholarships through Step Up for Students. Families may also apply for grants from their school where applicable.

SOURCE OF FUNDS



Non Operating Income	\$15,230
Gross Donations, Fundraising, Grants	\$3,980,790
Net Subsidy	\$704,999
Program Income	\$2,370,661
Other Income	\$385,326
Net Tuition & Fees	\$24,532,862

USE OF FUNDS



Total Salaries	\$16,884,303
Total Operational Expenses	\$4,554,376
Fundraising Expenses	\$224,080
Total Benefits	\$3,494,552
Total Facilities Expenses	\$2,999,875
Total Program Expenses	\$1,714,234
Surplus to Savings	\$2,118,448

TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS: \$31,989,868



Students We Serve

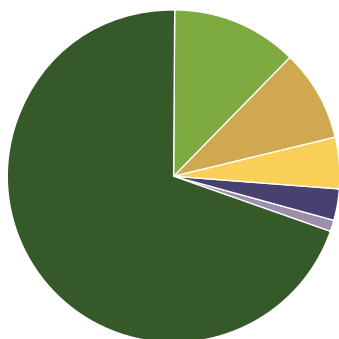
Our Catholic schools and early learning centers serve a diverse community of families from varying backgrounds, always with the goal of forming future saints. Teachers mentor our students in order to guide them toward achieving their full potential. We serve students from infants through twelfth grade. Our pupils 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 through the Office for Catholic Schools to support parents and guardians in the formation of their children, who are the next generation of the Church.



Our Catholic schools were at
91% CAPACITY in 2022-23

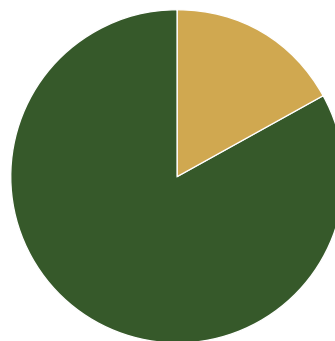
68%

OF OUR STUDENT BODY IS CATHOLIC



DEMOGRAPHICS BY RACE

Caucasian	70%
Multiracial	12%
African American	9%
Asian	5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3%
Native American/Native Alaskan	1%



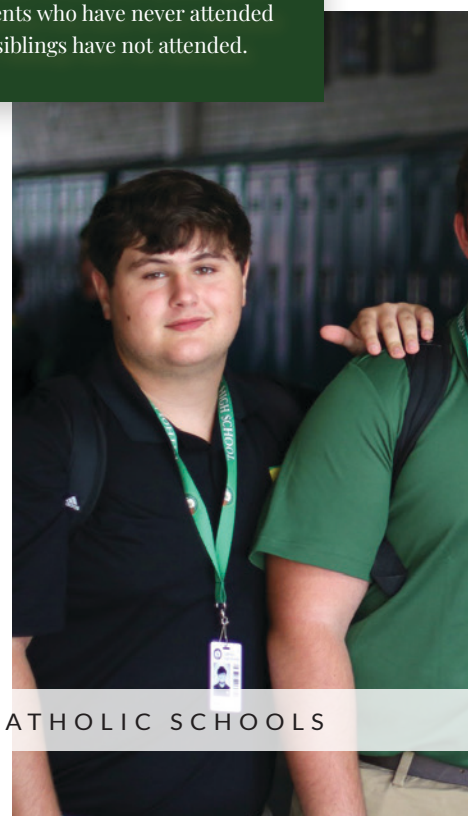
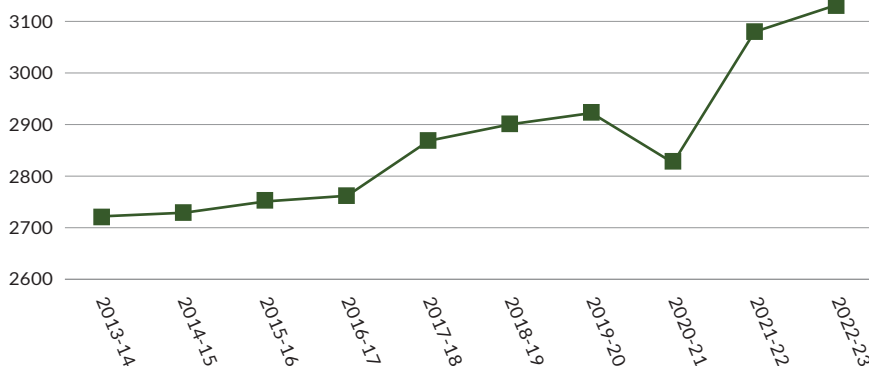
DEMOGRAPHICS BY ETHNICITY

Non-Hispanic	83%
Hispanic	17%

MUSTARD SEED GRANTS

The Catholic Foundation of Northwest Florida generously funds the Mustard Seed Grant, a one-year \$2,000 grant for a select number of students who have never attended Catholic school and whose siblings have not attended.

PK-12 Enrollment over Time in Our Schools



Catholic Youth Sports League



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, soccer, tackle football, track, and volleyball in 2022-23.

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)

846

Winter (basketball)

577

Spring (soccer)

709



Our Faculty and Staff

The heartbeat of our Catholic schools and early learning centers exists within our faculty and staff. They nurture our students and model Christ, the master teacher. Our faculty and staff provide a safe classroom environment where students adopt a growth mindset and seek their full potential. They have a lifelong impact on their students.

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.



DATA DAY: PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

Each year, our teachers participate in a training day called Data Day. The purpose of this professional development, hosted 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.

77%

OF OUR FACULTY IS CATHOLIC

Did you know?

If you or someone you know has an interest in teaching the Catholic Faith to the next generation, you can email teachersearch@ptdiocese.org to inquire about a faculty position for next school year.





ST. JOHN PAUL II

“As teachers, you kindle in your students a thirst for truth and wisdom. You spark off in them a desire for beauty.”

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 regional agencies.

Much preparation goes into an accreditation self-study and visit, as schools 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 at the three-year and seven-year marks of the accreditation cycle.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL SCHOOL in Pensacola earned high marks during its FCC accreditation renewal, receiving recognition for the deep connection between the school and parish communities, inclusion of Morning Star students into general classes, revamping of curriculum to align with mission, and monthly coaching sessions and professional learning community (PLC) work among faculty.

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL in Pensacola earned high marks during its FCC accreditation renewal, receiving certification for its STREAM program as well as recognition for its vertically aligned curriculum, pacing guides, and the integration of the Catholic Faith into its arts program.



SUPPORTING

Catholic Schools

How Can I Help?

PROMOTING

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

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

Did you know?

All Florida resident families, regardless of income, can qualify for a tax credit scholarship!



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

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

PRAYING

Lifting up our Catholic schools and early learning centers in your regular prayer life is essential to our continued success. Join a school's intercessory prayer team or commit to a holy hour of prayer at the school's parish church in Eucharistic Adoration. Contact schools@ptdiocese.org if you would like more information about joining an intercessory prayer team.

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.

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, capital campaign, school fundraising event, 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.





Scholarship Opportunities

In the Spring of 2023, the Florida Legislature passed universal school choice legislation, which was signed by our governor. This allows for all children in Florida to be eligible for a scholarship to cover most of the cost of private school tuition.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR K-12 STUDENTS TO ATTEND A PRIVATE SCHOOL

The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO) and the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship Program offer scholarships worth on average \$7,800 and cover most of the cost of private school tuition.

All families are eligible!

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES

The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA) is worth on average almost \$10,000 and covers most of the cost of private school tuition, instructional materials, home education, tutoring and more. Students who are 3-years-old to high school graduation or age 22 (whichever comes first) and have one of 23 qualifying diagnoses including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, spina bifida, and emotional, behavioral or intellectual disabilities are eligible.

TOTAL COST TO EDUCATE A CHILD

Tuition cost

Tuition gap



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

2022-23 DIOCESAN SCHOOLS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Mike Juhas
*Superintendent of
Catholic Schools*

Jane Rhedin
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Donna Bass
*Certification and
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Tony Howard
CYSL Director

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