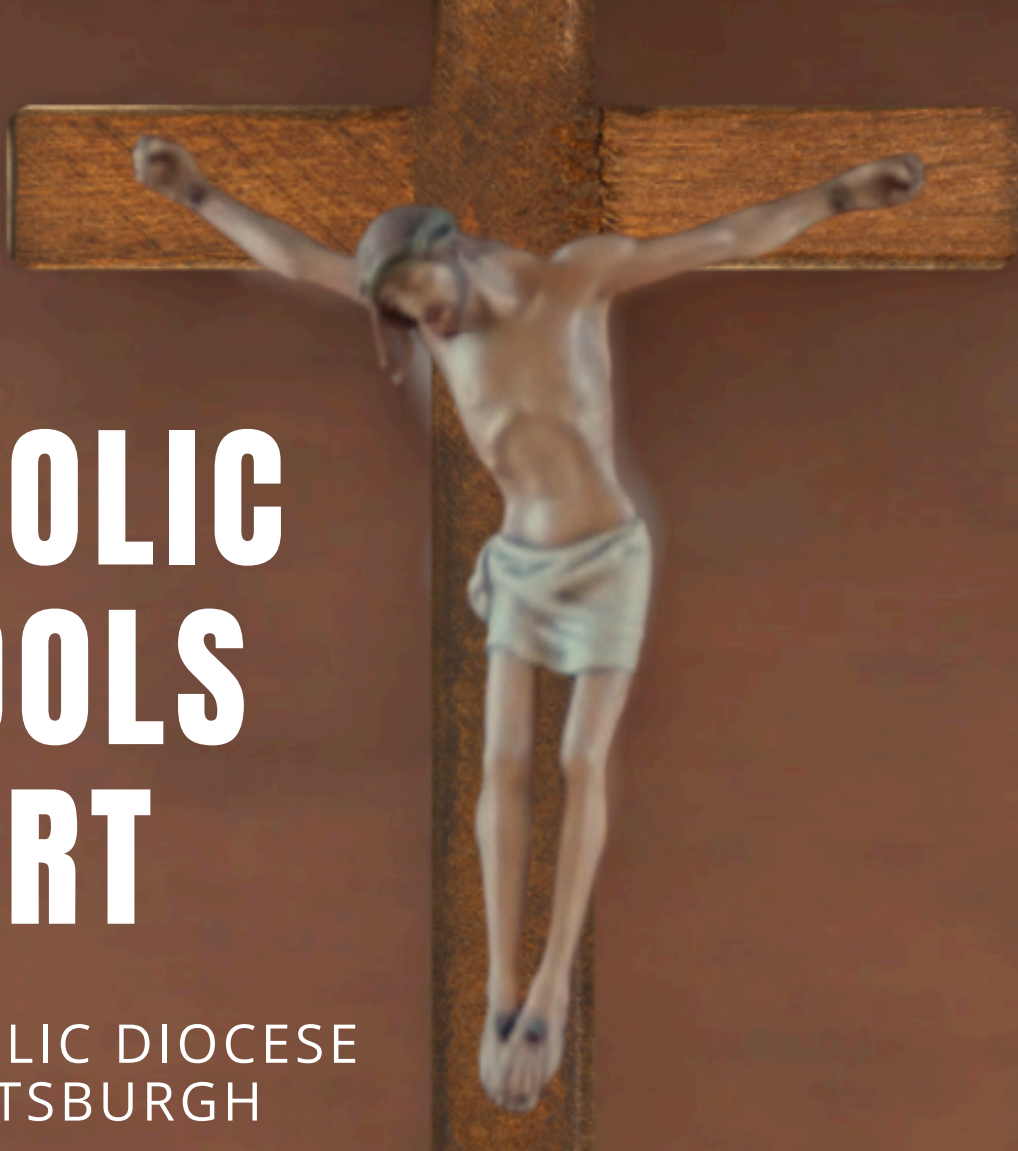


CATHOLIC SCHOOLS REPORT



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF PITTSBURGH



LIGHTING THE WAY
2025

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

It is with deep gratitude and great hope that I write to you for the first time as Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh in this year's Catholic Schools Report.

As a proud graduate of our diocesan Catholic schools, I know how powerfully they shape lives. In seventh grade, Sister Joanne taught us that prayer is not just words but a relationship with the Lord that builds over time. That same year, I was confirmed by Bishop Bosco, who encouraged us to pray daily for vocations. Those early experiences planted the seeds of my vocation and helped me grow in love for the Church.

Later, as a priest serving as a high school theology teacher, chaplain, and pastor, I had the joy of working closely with students, families, faculty, and staff. I saw how Catholic education nurtures both intellect and spirit, and how it helps young people discover who they are and how God is calling them to live.

This report offers a glimpse into the good work happening every day in our Catholic schools. You will see strong academics, vibrant communities, and a shared commitment to keeping our schools accessible, affordable, sustainable, and rooted in faith. In our schools, our children come to know Jesus and learn what it means to serve others in His name.

To our principals, teachers, and school leaders, I am grateful for your tireless dedication. To our parents and guardians, thank you for choosing Catholic education and placing your trust in us. To our benefactors and supporters, your generosity continues to make this mission possible.

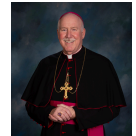
Please know of my prayers for you and your families. I ask you to pray for me as well, that I may serve with wisdom and humility. Together, may we continue the work of forming the next generation of disciples, scholars, and servant leaders who will carry the light of Christ into the world.

As we serve in faith and charity,

+ Most Reverend Mark A. Eckman



Bishop of Pittsburgh



DEAR FRIENDS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION,

With great joy and privilege, I welcome you to read this year's Catholic Schools Report.

As both an educator and a parent of children in Catholic elementary school, I bring a personal passion to this ministry. Before becoming superintendent this past year, I served in one of our diocesan high schools and witnessed the positive influence of Catholic education on impressionable hearts and minds.

Our schools are more than places of learning. They are family-centered communities where children encounter Christ, grow in virtue, and are formed for lives of service and discipleship. This report highlights the many ways our schools are fulfilling that mission with passion and purpose.

As we move forward, our focus is clear: we are working to ensure that our Catholic schools remain accessible, affordable, and sustainable, not just for today, but for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support and essential partnership in this sacred work.

With gratitude,

Lauren E. Martin



Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Pittsburgh



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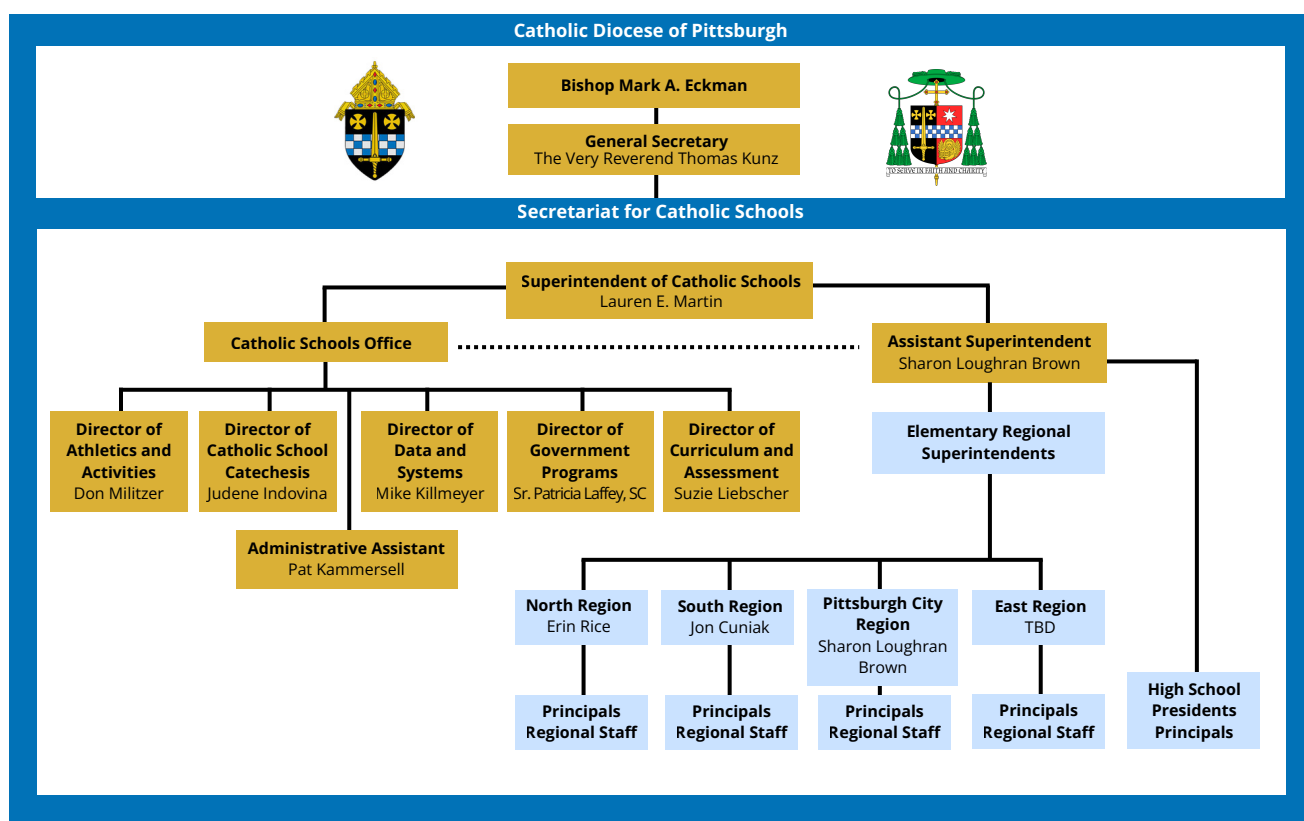




▲ Eighth grade students from Saint Benedict the Moor School visit Washington, D.C.

The Department of Catholic Schools

The Catholic Schools Office assists the bishop in providing a comprehensive, faith-based, and rigorous education for those seeking to be introduced to Jesus, formed in His teachings, and transformed into missionary disciples through the ministry of Catholic education. Our Catholic schools are accredited by the internationally-recognized Middle States Association.



Catholic schools are vibrant communities that give students opportunities to encounter academically challenging courses in an environment centered in faith. We provide resources and experiences to allow our students to thrive in all areas of their lives as they strive to become the best versions of themselves.

- Superintendent Lauren Martin

Lighting THE WAY

► Saint Wendelin School's outstanding student, Mila, has been named a Carson Scholar, an honor awarded to high-achieving students who demonstrate academic excellence and a deep commitment to their communities. This prestigious recognition places them among an elite group of students nationwide who exemplify the highest standards of scholarship and service.



Since 1828, when the first Catholic school opened in the territory that became the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Catholic education has provided a crucial foundation for the many Catholic families who settle in Western Pennsylvania. Catholic schools support the spiritual and academic growth of these families, and help them grow together as one people created by God in His image. This community now consists of more than 1,000 teachers and over 12,000 students, all connected by our love of Christ. As the Diocese of Pittsburgh celebrates its 182nd anniversary, our Catholic schools continue to unite communities, strengthen new generations in faith, and provide new opportunities to discover how God calls us to serve.

The Golden Apple Award



honors educators who exhibit commitment and witness to Gospel values in the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Bishop David Zubik presented this prestigious award to the 2024 - 2025 winners in May, at a dinner to celebrate their ministry.

Elementary School Teachers: Rebecca Crawford, Caitlin Goetz, Mary Ann Harrington, Katie Tarasovic, Andrew Weldon

High School Teachers: Noell Boyer

Principals: JoLynn Clouse

Affordable Education

The Bishop David A. Zubik: Church Alive! Scholarship



This scholarship honors Bishop Zubik's deep love for Catholic education and his early ministry as a young priest. This scholarship is awarded to diocesan high school students who are enthusiastic about their Catholic faith and demonstrate it in exemplary ways through their words, actions, and commitment to living as missionary disciples.

Bishop's Education Fund (BEF)

Since its inception in 1995, the BEF has distributed more than 52,000 grants totaling \$23 million, helping students and families to attain education of the highest quality. In the last 30 years, the financial need of the students who apply has increased to more than \$15 million annually.

Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC)

The Pennsylvania EITC Program allows businesses and all eligible state residents to turn tax dollars into Pittsburgh Catholic Scholarships for Catholic school students—at little cost. You can redirect your taxes to provide life-changing scholarships for families who want a faith-based education but need some financial help.

Extra Mile Education Foundation

The Extra Mile Foundation supports three urban elementary schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. This program also provides scholarships to low-income children attending other Catholic schools in the diocese. Over 600 of our pre-K through 8th-grade students receive scholarship support thanks to Extra Mile.



Michelle Peduto Lighting the Way Scholarship



Named in honor of our late former superintendent of Catholic schools, Michelle Peduto, this scholarship continues Michelle's legacy of love by supporting students who share her passion for faith, service, and learning. Contributions help provide the gift of Catholic education to those who embody the values that Michelle championed.

STAR Students

An anonymous donor provides funding for STAR, a Student Tuition Assistance Resource. The donor has specified that funding will initially serve students at Butler Catholic School in Butler, Holy Sepulcher School in Glade Mills, St. Joseph High School in Natrona Heights, and St. Wendelin School in Carbon Center.



Governance

All Catholic Schools affiliated with the Diocese of Pittsburgh operate under the diocesan bishop. He is advised and informed by both clergy and laity on the diocesan staff or who serve on school governing boards. Those boards are under the direct authority of a diocesan body known as the Board of Members, which comprises the bishop, his vicar general and the diocesan chancellor.

The overarching parent corporation for our high schools is Catholic High Schools of the Diocese of Pittsburgh (CHSDOP), whose members are appointed and bylaws approved by the bishop. Beneath the umbrella of CHSDOP, each high school has a local board of directors, assisted by ex-officio members from the diocesan staff.

All diocesan elementary schools are now part of a regionalized system. Through regionalization, we have moved from parish governance to oversight by a regional administration and board of directors subject to the reserve powers of the members. The four regions are Pittsburgh City Regional Catholic Elementary Schools (PCRCES), North Hills Regional Catholic Elementary Schools (NHRCES), South Regional Catholic Elementary Schools (SRCES), and Pittsburgh East Regional Catholic Elementary Schools (PERCES).

Not all Catholic schools within the territory of the diocese are operated by the diocese. Private Catholic schools and independent academies within the diocese are owned and operated by a religious congregation or a lay board.



Student Well-Being

The Diocese of Pittsburgh is committed to supporting students, families, and faculty at all points of the educational experience. We uphold the academic excellence, physical health, and emotional well-being of our Catholic school community.

Diocesan Safety & Security Team



The Diocese of Pittsburgh has built a dedicated team of sworn police officers who oversee security for schools, parishes, and church-related events. Led by Wendell Hissrich, Director of Safety and Security, this team has expanded diocesan strategies for responding to safety threats that have been growing nationwide. Supported by state and federal security grants, the Office for Safety and Security advances initiatives that safeguard students, faculty, and families in all diocesan schools.

- The diocesan Department for Safety & Security consists of 32 staff members, including 21 full-time security officers, six part-time security officers, and three regional supervisors.
- Each officer hired by the diocese has a minimum of 10 years of law enforcement experience with the average being 25 years.
- All security staff members complete approximately 40 hours of training annually on a variety of topics including first aid/CPR, de-escalation, active shooter, and firearms qualification.

7	K-12 SCHOOLS HOUSE ST. ANTHONY'S SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
30	SCHOOLS OFFER EXTENDED DAY PROGRAMS
35	SCHOOLS HAVE STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE FEDERAL TITLE 1 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOW INCOME STUDENTS
1,171	DIOCESAN STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR TITLE 1 SERVICES
1,500	DIOCESAN STUDENTS QUALIFY TO RECEIVE FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH
1,174	DIOCESAN STUDENTS RECEIVE SUPPORT FOR A DIAGNOSED DISABILITY (ADD/ADHD, AUTISM, EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL ISSUES, HEARING IMPAIRMENTS, LEARNING DISABILITIES, PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, SPEECH/LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENTS, VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS)

These figures are collected from a series of surveys completed by DOP Catholic schools personnel, and are subject to change since their collection in Fall of 2024.

Student Support

This school year marks a new chapter in student support for Catholic schools across Pennsylvania, as the Diocese of Pittsburgh launches a comprehensive, statewide initiative. This new program, a collaborative effort with all dioceses in the state, brings a unified language and common forms to the crucial work of educating the whole child. While the Diocese of Pittsburgh has long been a leader, with a student support program in place for more than 25 years, this new initiative represents a significant evolution: it integrates academic and social-emotional-behavioral support into a single, cohesive framework.

At the heart of this new approach is a formal process aligned with our mission to nurture the intellectual, spiritual, physical, and emotional growth of every student. The most significant change is the move beyond traditional academic-only support to a more holistic model that acknowledges the interconnectedness of a child's well-being and their ability to learn. This means that a student struggling with academic subjects may now also receive formal support for underlying social or emotional challenges, and vice versa.

The new framework is built upon the well-established Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). This model provides a systematic way for schools to identify and address the needs of all students. The process begins with universal screeners, which are assessments administered to all students to identify those who may be at risk for academic or behavioral difficulties. This proactive step allows schools to intervene early, providing targeted support before a student falls significantly behind.

Following the initial assessment, the MTSS framework employs a tiered approach to support. For students who show a need for additional help, a formal process of progress monitoring is implemented. This continuous data collection allows educators to track a student's response to interventions and make data-informed decisions about the student's unique needs. If a student is not responding to a lower-level intervention, the school can intensify the support, moving to a higher tier of the framework.

The collaborative nature of this initiative, with all Pennsylvania dioceses working together, ensures a consistent and high-quality approach to student support across the state. It provides schools with a shared language and set of tools, streamlining communication and ensuring that students who transfer between diocesan schools will have a more seamless transition. This unified effort reflects a deep commitment to the mission of Catholic education and a belief that every child deserves a supportive and enriching environment where they can thrive.

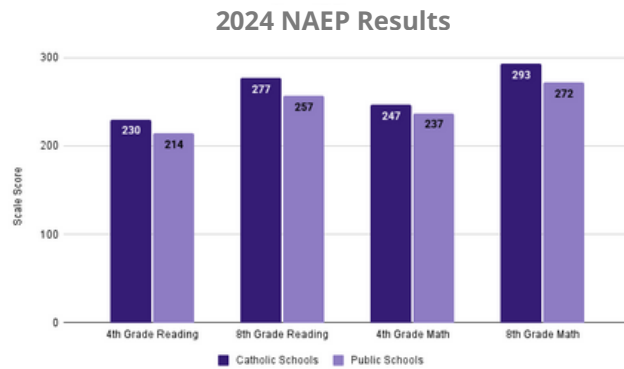


Measuring Success

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

The NAEP, or “the nation’s report card,” is one of the most valid and trusted national measures of student achievement. First administered in 1969, it is the largest nationally representative assessment comparing the progress of students in both public and private schools.

Students in grades 4, 8, and 12 are assessed in the areas of reading, math, and other subjects every two years. NAEP’s 2024 assessments, released in early 2025, show that Catholic-school students earned higher average scores than public-school and charter school students in both reading and math at grades 4 and 8, with differences reaching double digits in some comparisons.



Ark Assessment

After two years of piloting, the Diocese of Pittsburgh launched the Assessment for Religious Knowledge (ARK) for grades 2-12 this school year. ARK is the first comprehensive long-term national standardized assessment measuring the effectiveness of religious education programs. It is respected for its robust analysis of student understanding of the four pillars of Catholic doctrine plus Catholic social teaching and virtue. Additionally, ARK offers anonymous information about teacher testing and student beliefs, all of which provide a rich basis for data-driven improvement of our children’s religious formation.



Measuring Success

IOWA EXAMS

Summary of IOWA Assessment Results – English Language Arts (ELA) and Math

The IOWA assessment data demonstrates that students across grades 3–8 are performing above expectations in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

English Language Arts (ELA)

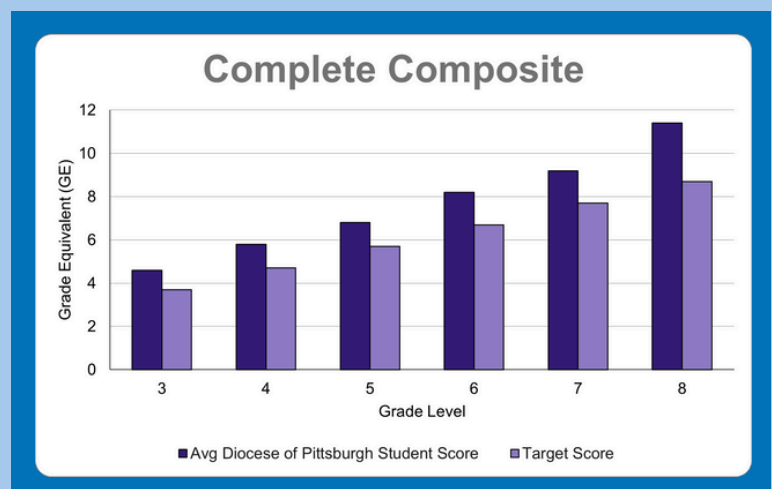
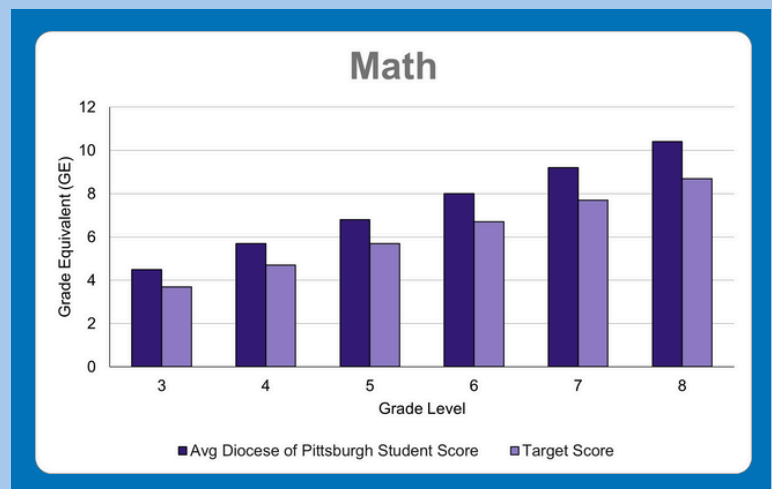
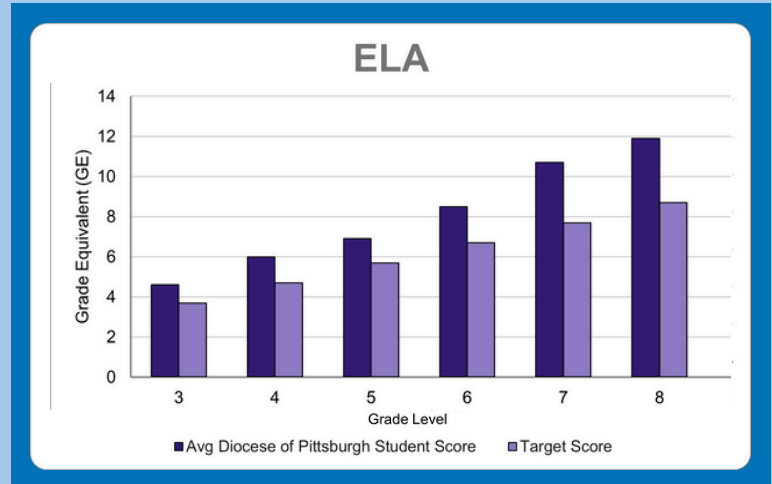
Students outperformed target scores by an average of 27.7% across all tested grades. This suggests strong mastery in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and language mechanics.

Mathematics

Students exceeded target scores by an average of 19%, reflecting consistent growth in problem-solving, computation, and number sense.

Complete Composite

The overall composite score (combining both ELA and math across grades 3–8) shows that, on average, students across all grades and subjects scored 25% higher than the expected benchmark.



Our Preschool to 8th-Grade Schools

Our middle and elementary schools offer an exceptional educational experience deeply rooted in faith, values, and academic excellence. We believe that every child is a unique and precious gift, and we are dedicated to nurturing their growth spiritually and academically.

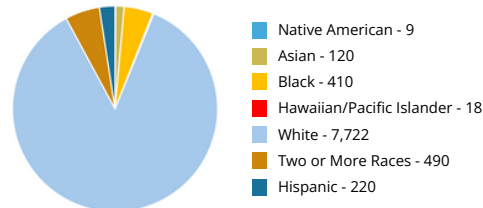


▲ The artistic talents of students at Archangel Gabriel School were displayed and celebrated at the Knight of Art showcase. Middle school students took their families on tours of artworks throughout the school, and the Spotlight Artists received certificates at a ceremony.

35 SCHOOLS
8,989 STUDENTS
747 STAFF MEMBERS
12:1 STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO

**Student-teacher ratio reflects overall professional staffing; individual class sizes differ by grade, program, and school.*

STUDENT POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY



▼ The third graders at Holy Sepulcher are learning to play the recorder, which introduces them to note reading and spurs their interest in joining the school band next year. They perform for younger students.



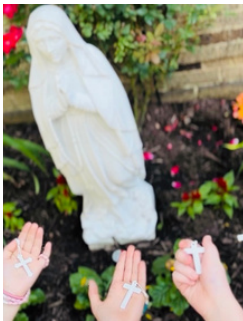
Scan to visit the Regional Elementary Schools area of the diocesan website.

Prayers & Sacraments



Baptized in Christ

In addition to forming thousands of students to receive first Holy Communion and confirmation each year, Catholic schools frequently assist families seeking baptism for their children. This spring at Madonna Catholic, the families of five students sought baptism for them at their local parish, St. Andrew the Apostle. On a Wednesday morning after the weekly school Mass, these children declared their faith in Jesus and received the graces of baptism, surrounded by family, friends, and classmates. Each child and family came with a unique story, but all were united by a desire to follow the Lord.



Rosary Club

Sacred Heart Elementary School Rosary Club meets twice a week after school and welcomes students in grades 3-8. Gathered in a quiet, peaceful space, students come together to pray the Rosary, reflect on the life of Christ and grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith. Led by the 4th-grade teacher, Ms. Nardozzi, the club has a "50 State Rosary Challenge," reaching out to students near and far to pray the Rosary with them for peace in the world and in everyone's heart. The challenge has allowed students to connect with other students around the country who share the same traditions and values.



Jubilee Year of Hope

To carry on Pope Francis' legacy, 8th-grade art students at Northside Catholic Assumption Academy spread his message of hope through their display in the front lobby windows of their school. Students from various grades posed for the silhouettes, which are "moving together toward hope." Seventh graders designed messages of hope to surround the logo. Sr. Carol Ann Papp, OSF, art instructor, said this display reminds all who pass through the school's entrance that they are called to be messengers of hope.



Faith in Focus | Preschool - 8

REMARKABLE FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE



Russell, a John F. Kennedy Catholic School seventh grader, was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in September 2024. The school community has surrounded Russell and his family with prayers, love, and hope. Chaplain Fr. Mike Zavage has walked with them during this time of uncertainty, talking to the students about the importance of prayer and faith. He gave Russell the anointing of the sick and helped the students to create a spiritual bouquet for him. He presented this to Russell at a Holy Hour held to pray for all children fighting cancer.



Santino and his family have been part of the Holy Family School community for eight years. In 2022, Santino was diagnosed with moyamoya disease and underwent brain surgery, followed by a year-long recovery. It became difficult to exert himself during recess and in sports. Near the end of his recovery, when the family was readying themselves to welcome another baby into the family, they learned Santino's condition had begun affecting another section of his brain. This meant another grueling brain surgery, and another year of extremely limited activity. This past fall, Santino passed the second one-year mark, and is now more active and able to participate in sports with his older brother, Rico. Santino's family has embraced their deep faith throughout all of these trials. While moyamoya disease can affect any part of the brain again at any time, the family remains faithful that God is walking through this with them.



St. Therese School's middle school English language arts teacher, Mrs. Hallie Leach, has been teaching lessons about the Holocaust through literature for more than 25 years. In her classes, students learn not to be bystanders, but to "to take a stand for what is right and to help others when they are able," she says. These efforts help students "learn more about the human experience," which she says, is "in an effort to build a more empathetic world." Mrs. Leach incorporates Holocaust survivor experiences into the curriculum to enrich students' learning experiences. She is pictured here with 94-year-old Holocaust survivor Rosalie Simon. Mrs. Leach was one of two teachers selected from the Pittsburgh area to attend the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous Summer Institute in New Jersey, and was recommended by facilitators of a previous workshop for Catholic school teachers to attend The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights (TOLI) Leadership Conference in New York this summer.



Honor League

HONORING THE WHOLE CHILD

The Launch of the Diocese of Pittsburgh Honor League

This school year marked the launch of the Diocese of Pittsburgh Honor League, a new initiative that brings together schools in a shared mission: to celebrate students not just for their academic success, but for who they are as faith-filled leaders, compassionate servants, and disciples of Christ.

Modeled after the National Honor Society but distinctly rooted in Catholic values, the Catholic Honor League was designed to shine a light on the whole child. While students often receive recognition for athletics or academics alone, this diocesan-wide initiative expands the spotlight to include students' character, commitment to their faith, and meaningful service to others.



The vision for the Honor League began in Beaver County, with leadership from principal Shirley Martin at Our Lady of Fatima School. Building upon this local effort, the diocese developed a framework to unify participating schools and reflect the mission of Catholic education—academic excellence enriched by Gospel values.

Now in its first year, the Diocese of Pittsburgh Honor League has already welcomed 14 schools, with more expected to join as the initiative grows. Each school recognizes students who maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5 and who demonstrate leadership, integrity, and a heart for service. While the academic criteria provide a foundation, it is the students' daily witness to their faith, through kindness, humility, and stewardship that truly defines their membership.

To help students reflect on these values, the league draws inspiration from its patron, Blessed Carlo Acutis, a teenager known for his devotion to the Eucharist and his joyful use of technology to evangelize. Prospective members write essays on how they strive to live like Carlo, growing in holiness and leadership through everyday choices.

Induction ceremonies, service projects, and regular meetings help build a sense of community among members. Students participate in charitable outreach, parish initiatives, peer mentoring, and environmental stewardship, learning that leadership begins with quiet acts of love.

"The Honor League gives our schools a beautiful way to come together and celebrate what truly matters," said Suzie Liebscher, diocesan director of curriculum and assessment. "It's not just about grades or sports; it's about forming students who lead with faith, serve with joy, and grow in virtue."

As the Diocese of Pittsburgh Honor League expands, it offers a unifying opportunity to lift the next generation of leaders. These students embody the heart of Catholic education. Like Blessed Carlo, they show that holiness is possible at any age.

Our High Schools

The high schools of the Diocese of Pittsburgh are designed to build the skills, faith, and character of tomorrow's leaders. They offer a dynamic and nurturing educational environment that combines the rich traditions of our faith with the modern tools and knowledge needed for academic and personal growth. Our mission is to empower students to excel academically, grow spiritually and embrace values that will guide them throughout life.

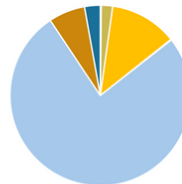


▲ The North Catholic/St. Anthony School Programs Bocce Team had an outstanding 2025 season, showcasing skill, teamwork, and determination. After a series of hard-fought matches, the team proudly secured third place in its division—a remarkable accomplishment that reflects its hard work and dedication. The North Catholic/St. Anthony School Programs Bocce Team continues to be a source of pride for their school community.

10 SCHOOLS
3,306 STUDENTS
321 STAFF MEMBERS
10 : 1 STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO

**Student-teacher ratio reflects overall professional staffing; individual class sizes differ by grade, program, and school.*

STUDENT POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY



- Native American - 6
- Asian - 67
- Black - 400
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander - 4
- White - 2,520
- Two or More Races - 216
- Hispanic - 93

▼ The 2025 graduating class of Aquinas Academy in their graduation caps and gowns



Scan to visit the high schools area of the diocesan website.

Faith in Focus | High Schools

Chapel Dedication

In January, Seton LaSalle Catholic High school celebrated the formal dedication of the Dunlap Family Blessed Sacrament Chapel with a Mass celebrated by Bishop David Zubik.

The Dunlap Family Blessed Sacrament Chapel features many refurbished elements from local churches including pews from the former St. Ladislaus Church in Natrona Heights; the tabernacle, eucharistic candle holders, and adoration candelabra from St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Castle Shannon; and the ambo, credence table, holy water fonts, and stained-glass cross in the hallway from Christ the Divine Shepherd Parish in Monroeville. The cornerstone pieces of the chapel, including the altar, and restored statues of the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, came from the original Christian Brothers house at Seton LaSalle which hails back to the days of South Hills Catholic High School.

Sixteen German-made, custom stained-glass windows adorn the west wall. They feature the school's patron saints, as well as others that reflect the characteristics of Seton LaSalle and its students. "Through student and faculty collaboration we identified 16 saints who best exemplify the pillars of our community," said Will Merchant, school principal. "These saints are compassionate healers and academic achievers. They are young servant leaders and courageous heroes. From this day forward, when we gather in the chapel, the light that shines through the Rebel saints will illuminate our path forward."



Service | Preschool - 12

At the heart of Catholic education is a commitment to forming missionary disciples, young people who live out their faith through action. Service is an essential part of this mission. By encouraging students to reach beyond themselves and serve others, we help them grow in compassion, humility, and responsibility. Whether through school-wide initiatives or small acts of kindness, our students learn that faith is lived most fully when it is shared in love and service to others.



Love for Our Elders

Nazareth Prep students continued their work with Love for Our Elders, a Cleveland-based nonprofit dedicated to combating social isolation among older adults across the nation. Students read heartfelt letters, revealing the lives and struggles of isolated elders, and they responded with personalized letters and cards of encouragement. This intergenerational connection, especially meaningful to students who cherish their own grandparents, fostered a sense of shared humanity.



Spring Mission Trip

During the annual spring mission trip, 30 Oakland Catholic students served at a dozen locations in the local community.

They visited Little Sisters of the Poor and helped make Easter baskets. There, they met former Oakland Catholic religion teacher, Carol Crawford, who is now a resident.



Toppling Hunger: Cereal Box Dominoes

Thanks to the generous students of Mother of Mercy Academy, 495 boxes of cereal were

donated to the St. Windfred Food Pantry. Students used the boxes to create a domino run, to visualize the impact of their gifts when it toppled.



Spending Time with our Elders

Blessed Trinity Academy's Service Club gave back to the local community by bringing cheer to the

residents of Harmony Senior Living, located in Indiana Township. Service Club members made regular trips to Harmony, where they visited with the residents and brought them handmade presents.



Thanksgiving Food Drive

The St. Louise de Marillac School family helped deliver Thanksgiving dinners and food pantry supplies to the residents of the Mooncrest

community. The Felician Sisters warmly welcomed student council officers. The sisters explained that, without this service project, many residents would be unable to provide meals for their families.

Service | Preschool - 12



Mardi Gras Fundraiser for Chimbote

At Divine Mercy Academy, Mrs. Lisa Regtig's 4th and 5th graders created their own games, hosted

the other elementary students in their classroom, and provided candy prizes. Proceeds went to The Chimbote Foundation, which has been providing medical care to those in need in Chimbote, Peru since 1963.



Boxes of Joy

Sixth grade students at Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy participated in the Jared Box Program class service project. The

students selected toys, games, and fun items to fill individual boxes, which were delivered to local hospitals. These boxes lifted spirits and provided playful distractions to children facing hospital stays.



Day of Service in Hazelwood

Student athletes from Central Catholic volunteered at Camp Hazelwood's "Day on the

Green." Students led outdoor activities, including soccer, flag football, and basketball. The rowing team gave hands-on demonstrations to campers using ergometers, simulating the experience of rowing on the water.



Walking for Uganda

Sacred Heart Elementary School's 2nd and 3rd graders participated in the The Bugumiro Foundation Walk-a-thon.

The Bugumiro Foundation is a Catholic nonprofit organization supporting the most vulnerable families in Uganda by providing homes, schools, education, and youth programs. Sacred Heart's students helped them raise over \$2,000.



Cards of Care

St. Bede students wrote letters to retired Sisters of St. Joseph, parishioners, and neighbors to remind community members of

their prayers for them. Our Lady of Fatima's K-8th graders made Easter cards and decor for St. Vincent de Paul and the Knights of Columbus. Donations went into Easter baskets delivered to homebound residents of Beaver ElderCare.



Our Lady's Pantry and Coraopolis Community Food Drive

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School students held food

drives for Our Lady's Pantry (the school's on-campus emergency food pantry) and for the food pantry at Coraopolis Community Development throughout the year. Through this service, they embody the Felician core values compassion and solidarity with people in need.

Student Life

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

LIT FEST

Our 2025 Diocese of Pittsburgh Lit Fest welcomed over 800 students from 23 of our K-8 schools. The Diocese of Pittsburgh Lit Fest was created to bring our Catholic school students together to celebrate stories that reflect our faith and community. Students in grades 4-8 across the diocese were invited to read and participate in this year's festival.



Seton LaSalle Catholic High School hosted students in grades 4-6 from Catholic grade schools throughout the Diocese for a literacy celebration. The day's workshops and activities were designed to deepen students' engagement with the books they studied and to inspire a lifelong love of reading. These included: *Penny and the Stolen Chalice* by Antony Barone Kolenc; *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* by C.S. Lewis; and *Saving Mount Rushmore* by Andrea Jo Rodgers. Students collaborated to solve intricate literary puzzles; competed in trivia challenges; and tackled the "Sacred Defenders" art challenge, designing characters or scenes inspired by the stories they read.

Students in 7th and 8th grades convened at Resurrection Parish and Ave Maria Academy to challenge older students, participating in a game of Kahoot, presenting student-led broadcasts, and diving more deeply into both history and faith. Their reading list was as ambitious as it was inspiring: *Shadows in the Dark* by Antony Barone Kolenc; *Carlo Acutis: A Saint in Sneakers*, by Courtney Mares; *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls; and *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson. Kolenc was featured as keynote speaker, sharing insights from his mystery novel while connecting literary themes to real-life challenges facing young Catholics today.



MATH 24 COMPETITIONS

Hosted at three Catholic high schools—Bishop Canevin, St. Joseph, and Serra Catholic—Math 24 united dozens of elementary schools for a day of math-focused challenges and fun. Students in 3rd-8th grades participated in multiple rounds of the Math 24 game, using critical thinking, mental math, and strategic problem-solving to reach the target number "24." The competition not only strengthened mathematical skills, but also fostered confidence, teamwork, and joy in learning. For many students, this was a chance to shine in a new setting, to compete respectfully, and to celebrate the power of persistence and logical thinking.



The Diocese of Pittsburgh was recognized by Robert Sun, the inventor of the Math 24 game, for its commitment to building numeracy and problem-solving skills through these competitions. Sun generously donated prizes for participating students, helping to encourage and reward their efforts. His support further affirmed the value of this program in promoting math achievement in Catholic schools.





DAY OF POETRY

More than 60 students from four Catholic high schools celebrated the power of poetry at the Day of Poetry event, hosted by the Diocese of Pittsburgh in partnership with the International Poetry Forum. Held at The Port, a Franciscan arts center in Lawrenceville, the event featured three workshops led by local poets, educators, and university professors. These sessions gave students a chance to explore poetic form, enhance their writing skills, and engage in meaningful dialogue about poetry. Afterwards, students shared the original poetry they wrote during the event. The day fostered both artistic growth and community, leaving students inspired to continue writing.



DIOCESAN SPELLING BEE

Top young spellers from across the diocese in 4th-6th grades gathered at St. Louise de Marillac School for the annual diocesan spelling bee. The event showcased the students’ mastery of challenging words and their focus, confidence, and grace under pressure. Arista, a 5th grader from John F. Kennedy Catholic School, emerged as the 2025 diocesan Spelling Bee champion. Nicholas, representing Blessed Francis Seelos Academy, was named runner-up. Their achievements reflect strong academic skills and a deep commitment to learning.



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

- A CAPELLA • ACADEMIC GAMES • ALTAR SERVING • ARCHERY • BAND • BARBERSHOP SINGING • BASEBALL
- BASKETBALL • BOARD GAME CLUB • BOWLING • CAMPUS MINISTRY CLUB • CHEERLEADING • CHESS CLUB
- CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP TEAM • CONCERT CHOIR • CREATIVE WRITING CLUB • CREW • CROSS COUNTRY
- CUB SCOUTS • DANCE TEAM • DRAMA & THEATRE • ENGLISH FESTIVAL • ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB
- FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA • FENCING • FOOTBALL • FORENSICS • GIRL SCOUTS • GEOGRAPHY BEE
- GOLF • GUITAR LESSONS • GYMNASTICS • ICE & IN-LINE HOCKEY • INVENTION CONVENTION
- JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT • LACROSSE • LATIN & ANCIENT COINS CLUB • MATH 24 • MATH TEAM • MOCK TRIAL
- NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY & JUNIOR NHS • PIANO LESSONS • PENNSYLVANIA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
- POETRY CLUB • PRO-LIFE CLUB • QUIZ BOWL • ROBOTICS CLUB • RUGBY • STUDENTS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS
- SCHOOL DANCES • SCHOOL MUSICALS • SCIENCE BOWL SERVICE LEARNING • SKI CLUB • SOCCER • SOFTBALL • SPANISH CLUB
- SPELLING BEE • SPIRIT CLUB STUDENT COUNCIL • SUMMER CAMPS • SWIMMING & DIVING • TEA & NOTES TO NURSING HOMES
- TENNIS TRACK & FIELD • ULTIMATE FRISBEE • VOLLEYBALL • YEARBOOK • YOUTH MINISTRY

Diocese of Pittsburgh

REGIONAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

NORTH HILLS REGIONAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (NHRCES)

- Blessed Francis Seelos Academy
- Blessed Trinity Academy
- Butler Catholic School
- Holy Cross Academy
- Holy Sepulcher Catholic School
- St. Kilian Catholic School
- St. Gregory School
- St. Wendelin School

PITTSBURGH EAST REGIONAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (PERCES)

- Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy
- Divine Mercy Academy
- Holy Family School
- Mary of Nazareth
- Sacred Heart
- St. Bede
- St. Therese of Lisieux

SOUTH REGIONAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (SRCES)

- Archangel Gabriel Catholic School
- Ave Maria Academy (Bethel Park Campus, Mt. Lebanon Campus)
- Guardian Angel Academy
- John F. Kennedy Catholic School
- Madonna Catholic
- Mother of Mercy Academy
- Our Lady of Fatima
- Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School
- St. James School
- St. Louise de Marillac
- St. Monica Catholic Academy

PITTSBURGH CITY REGIONAL SCHOOLS (PCRCS)

- Northside Catholic Assumption Academy
- St. Benedict the Moor School
- Sr. Thea Bowman Catholic Academy

PRIVATE INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Aquinas Academy
- Carlow Campus School
- Providence Heights Alpha (now closed)
- South Hills Catholic Academy
- St. Anthony's School Program

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

- Bishop Canevin High School
- Central Catholic High School
- North Catholic High School
- Oakland Catholic High School
- Saint Joseph High School
- Serra Catholic High School
- Seton LaSalle Catholic High School

PRIVATE INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

- Aquinas Academy
- Nazareth Prep
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School
- St. Anthony's School Program



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Catholic Schools and regional schools.

LIGHTING THE WAY
2025



Lighting the Way

PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF PITTSBURGH

