

IMPACT REPORT

2022 • 2023





Dear Friends in Christ,

I am grateful to God for the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Austin!

Young people who attend our Catholic schools receive an exceptional education and opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities that challenge a student's body and mind. More importantly, Catholic education offers our students daily encounters with Jesus Christ. Our Catholic faith is intentionally woven into the fabric of the school day, whether in a kindergarten reading class or a high school geometry class.

We should be extremely proud of the work and ministry of our Catholic schools.

Thank you for your support of Catholic education!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joe S. Vásquez".

Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez
Bishop of Austin



OUR MISSION

Forming Children in Wisdom and Holiness

Catholic schools offer the fullest and best opportunity to realize the four-fold purpose of Christian education, namely to provide an atmosphere where the Gospel message is proclaimed, community in Christ is experienced, service to our sisters and brothers is the norm, and thanksgiving and worship of God is cultivated.

Dear Catholic Schools Community,

It is with great pride and gratitude that we present to you the 2022 – 2023 Catholic School Impact Report. This document stands as a testament to the transformative journey we have undertaken together and the lasting influence we have on the lives of our students, families, and communities.



As we delve into this report, we celebrate the profound impact our schools have had for the past 12 months. Our commitment to academic excellence, faith formation, community engagement, and alumni success showcases the value of a Catholic education. We remain dedicated to our mission of forming children in wisdom and holiness, ensuring that our students continue to be saints in the making.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you - our students, parents, teachers, staff, donors, and friends. Your unwavering dedication to our mission has fueled our success and inspired us to continually strive for excellence.

Together, we celebrate the profound impact of our Catholic schools on the lives of those we touch. As we move forward, we do so with a renewed sense of purpose, knowing that the legacy we build today will shape the saints and scholars of tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Misty Poe".

Misty Poe
Superintendent

OUR VISION

The Catholic Diocese of Austin believes in the power of Catholic education to transform the world into an image of God's kingdom.



OUR SCHOOLS

Elementary / Middle Schools

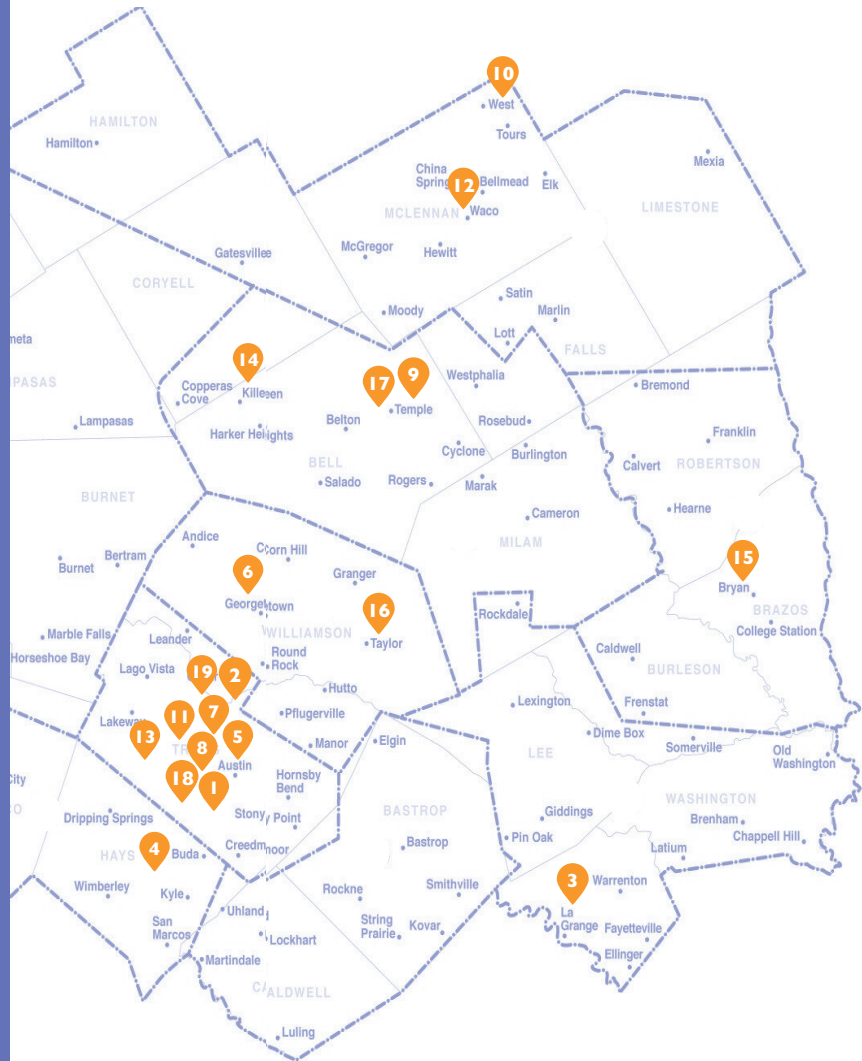
1. Cathedral School of Saint Mary, Austin
2. Holy Family Catholic School, Austin
3. Sacred Heart Catholic School, La Grange
4. Santa Cruz Catholic School, Buda
5. St. Austin Catholic School, Austin
6. St. Helen Catholic School, Georgetown
7. St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic School, Austin
8. St. Louis Catholic School, Austin
9. St. Mary's Catholic School, Temple
10. St. Mary's Catholic School, West
11. St. Theresa Catholic School, Austin

K-12 Schools

12. Bishop Louis Reicher Catholic School, Waco
13. St. Gabriel's Catholic School
+ St. Michael's Catholic Academy, Austin
14. St. Joseph Catholic Academy, Killeen
15. St. Joseph Catholic School, Bryan
16. St. Mary's Catholic School, Taylor

High Schools

17. Holy Trinity Catholic High School, Temple
18. San Juan Diego Catholic High School, Austin
19. St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School, Austin





Total Number of Schools

\$6.7M+

Amount schools distributed
in tuition assistance

- 11** Elementary / Middle Schools
- 5** K-12 Schools
- 3** High Schools

- 14** Parish Schools
- 3** Diocesan Schools
- 2** Independent Schools



ACCREDITATION

Accreditation plays an important role in supporting and validating the mission and excellence of Catholic schools.

Catholic schools in the state of Texas are accredited through the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCB ED). TCCB ED uses several guiding documents to create their standards including the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) recommendations of Church doctrine related to elementary and secondary Catholic schools.

The accreditation cycle is a seven-year process that culminates in a yearlong self-study for each school, followed by an accreditation visit that serves to acknowledge and support the strengths and areas of continuous improvement each school has identified in the self-study process.

During the 2022-2023 school year, three schools were visited by an accreditation team:

- St. Gabriel's Catholic School, Austin
- Santa Cruz Catholic School, Buda
- St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic School, Austin

ALL THREE SCHOOLS RECEIVED COMMENDATION IN THE AREAS OF:



Catholic identity and active participation of local clergy



Focus on safety policies and procedures



Sense of community and positive climate among student and staff



Availability of student activities to meet the diverse interests of the student body



OUR STUDENTS

By the Numbers

 **5,413**

Total Number of
Students Served

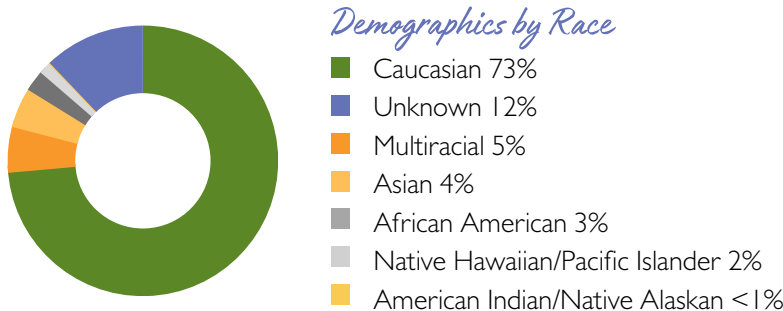
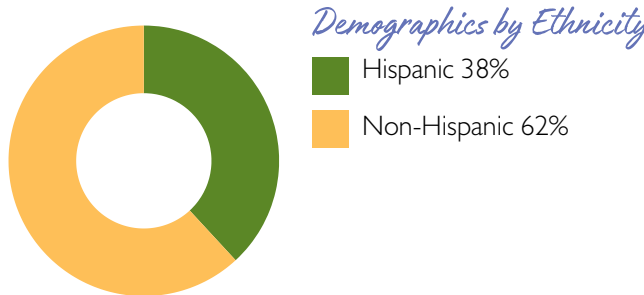
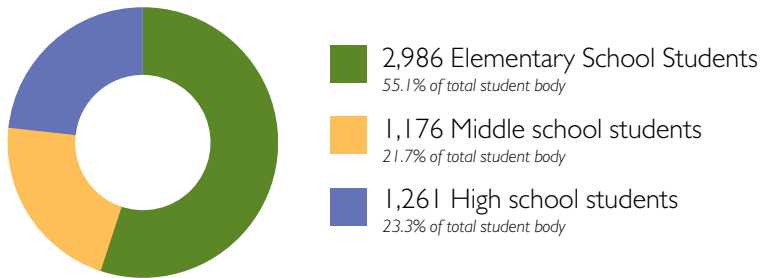
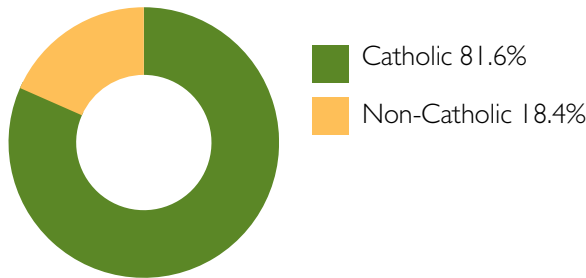
2022-2023

 **37%**

of all students receive
tuition assistance

 **434**

students eligible for
free/reduced lunch



 **545**
students with
diagnosed disability
learning, physical, and mental

 **27**
students with international
student visas

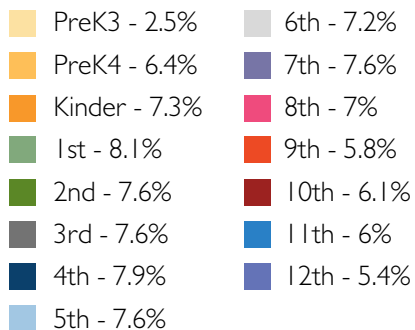
 **100%**
of students are formed
in wisdom and holiness

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Austin serve a diverse community of families from varying backgrounds, always with the mission of forming saints and scholars. Teachers mentor our students in order to guide them toward achieving their full potential. We serve students from PreK3 through 12th grade, and offer them a safe and loving environment so they can grow physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually.

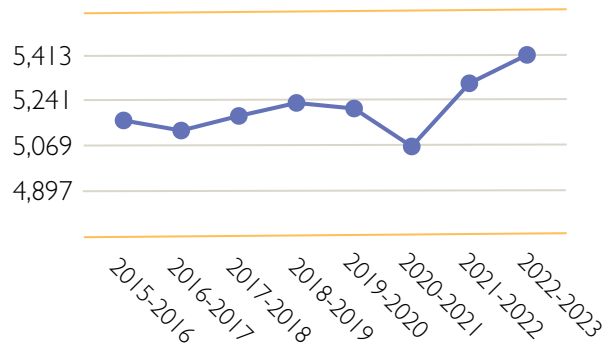
As one of the largest ministries of our diocese, schools partner with Bishop Vásquez and pastors to support parents and guardians in the formation of their children.



Enrollment by Grade



Enrollment Over Time in Our Schools



OUR GRADUATES CLASS OF 2023

By the Numbers



280

graduates in 2023



100%

college acceptance rate



\$35M

offered in scholarships

to attend college and universities



BISHOP LOUIS REICHER CATHOLIC SCHOOL
VALEDICTORIAN
PAIGE B.



BISHOP LOUIS REICHER CATHOLIC SCHOOL
SALUTATORIAN
ALICIA M.

Bishop Louis Reicher Catholic School, Waco

All students participated in extracurricular activities, including athletics, student government, robotics, and campus ministry. Through these activities and our one-of-a-kind learning experience, they are ready to become leaders and their best selves.



SAN JUAN DIEGO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
VALEDICTORIAN
JULISSA M.



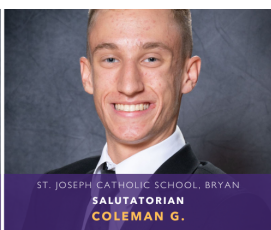
SAN JUAN DIEGO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SALUTATORIAN
PENELOPE S.

San Juan Diego Catholic High School, Austin

This year's senior class was involved in raising funds for earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria, Breast Cancer patients in Central Texas, and supported the food pantry at St. Ignatius Martyr Parish with a food drive that collected over 350 pounds of food!



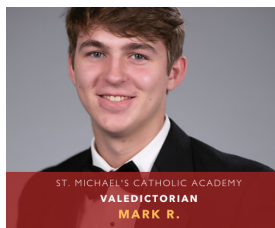
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL, BRYAN
VALEDICTORIAN
LUKE J.



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL, BRYAN
SALUTATORIAN
COLEMAN G.

St. Joseph Catholic School, Bryan

The Class of 2023 had a 100% college acceptance rate. They have been accepted to colleges from Texas A&M University to Arizona State University and from University of North Texas to Utah State. Two seniors have committed to the U.S. Army and the U.S. Coast Guard.



ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY
VALEDICTORIAN
MARK R.



ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY
SALUTATORIAN
EMMA S.

St. Michael's Catholic Academy, Austin

During the Winter Term service trip, 13 students went to Costa Rica where they served the Parque La Libertad community. The students worked tirelessly to beautify the community's park landscape to attract local fauna. They returned home excited about the work they completed with a heartfelt appreciation and friendship for the community they served.



48

National Merit Scholars
amongst the seven high schools



5,500+

Cumulative service
hours completed



152

Seniors in the Class of 2023 who have
been in Catholic School since PreK

Holy Trinity Catholic High School, Temple

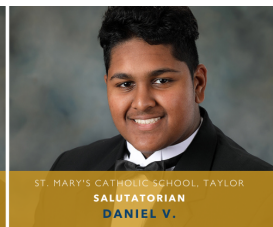
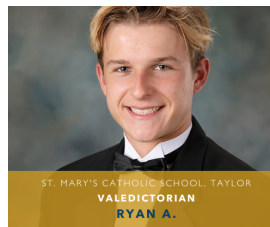
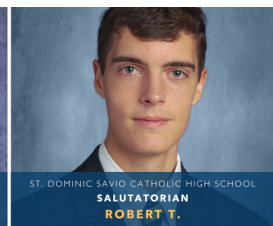
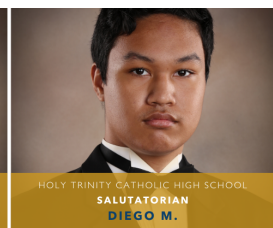
Holy Trinity Catholic High School's Senior class has been accepted to 30 different colleges and universities, with combined scholarship offerings of \$1,659,821.

St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School, Austin

St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School had three seniors place in the Austin Regional Science Fair this year with one going on to the Texas Science and Engineering State Fair. This class also had the most trophies won by a Savio Robotics Team during a season.

St. Mary's Catholic School, Taylor

This year's class was St. Mary's Catholic School's first graduating class since 1966, and three of the four graduates have been together at St. Mary's since fifth grade.



OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

By the Numbers



631

Total Number of
Faculty members



15

Religious and Clergy



464

Lay Female Teachers



69%

Catholic

31%

Non-Catholic



152

Lay Male Teachers

Teachers and staff are an essential part of the success of our Catholic schools, which is why the Office of Catholic Schools continues to provide opportunities for professional development for teachers and staff. In the 2022-2023 academic year, two particular initiatives continued to flourish:

Leadership Academy

Cohort 3 of the Leadership Academy completed an 18-month discernment journey and formation, which provided a unique experience for educators interested in pursuing a career in Catholic School Leadership.



Classroom Learning Lab

Six teachers from different Catholic schools across the diocese explored and practiced the craft of teaching in a supportive and mission-driven environment. This consisted of observing each other teach, sharing best practices, and providing constructive feedback to continually improve and expand their teaching methodologies.

Years of Service

Many Catholic school teachers in the Diocese have a long tenure in the schools, and they see Catholic schools as part of their personal ministry and mission. This year we celebrated 82 faculty and staff members milestone anniversaries, with the following individuals celebrating more than 30 years of service:



Mrs. Glomb

45 Years of Service
Bishop Louis Reicher
Catholic School, Waco



Mrs. Zingelmann

45 Years of Service
Sacred Heart Catholic
School, La Grange



Mrs. Keller

30 Years of Service
St. Joseph Catholic
School, Bryan



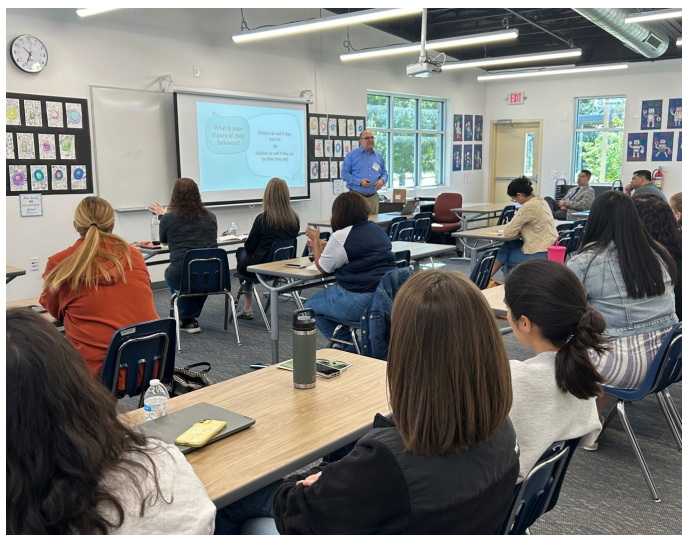
Mrs. Pickerill

30 Years of Service
St. Louis Catholic School,
Austin

Every year the Office of Catholic Schools hosts an annual Convocation, where faculty and staff celebrating milestone anniversaries are recognized for their years of service in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Austin.

Grants for Teachers

The Advancing Our Mission Grants are opportunities for all teachers and staff to apply for funding for a special project or program to enhance the student experience in and out of the classroom. **This year's grants totaled \$40,000.** The Advancing Our Mission program is funded by the Advancing Our Mission Endowment created in the Catholic Foundation - Diocese of Austin. Learn more about the exciting new programs available at our schools through the Advancing Our Mission grant at csdatx.org/aomgrants.



Did you know...?

In addition to the Level II religious education certification requirement for all religion teachers in the Diocese of Austin Catholic schools, Level I religious education certification is required for all teachers who serve our students. This Level I certification provides a foundation and basic knowledge of our Catholic faith for all teachers so their subject areas can be supported through the lens of the Church. Every teacher who teaches in our Catholic schools, whether Catholic or non-Catholic, is on a walk with our Lord that deserves to be nourished and encouraged.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY



100%

of our schools where faith formation is central and integral to the curriculum.



100%

of our schools celebrate Mass together as a community weekly.



With the support of the Office of Catholic Schools, each school ensures that school life and learning are focused on the foundation of Catholic education: teaching, worship, community and service.



Teaching - living Gospel values, preserving and passing on the traditions, beliefs and culture of the Catholic faith which are the heart of each school's curriculum and activities.



Worship - regularly celebrated liturgy, prayer and prayer services in the Catholic tradition.



Community - the total life of the school reflects the commitment to the faith development of each person, and a genuine respect for every individual.



Service - opportunities for faith-in-action are provided that are consistent with Catholic social teaching and serve as a witness of faith to the communities served by the schools.



Middle School Eucharistic Rally

This past year, and in honor of the National Eucharistic Revival movement, eight of our Catholic middle schools (more than 400 teens) came together for a day of fellowship, encounter, and spiritual renewal. The middle school Eucharistic Rally offered students an opportunity to grow in their relationship with Christ in the Eucharist. The schedule of the day included a dynamic presentation from Catholic speaker Paul J. Kim, Mass celebrated by Bishop Joe Vásquez, and concluded with Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The rally was such a success that another one is in the works for this academic year.



Advocacy Day

Catholic Advocacy Day took place in 2023 at the Texas Capitol, and hundreds of our Catholic school students participated in the day's activities - which included mock trial hearings, Bishop's rally, and visiting with local representatives. We are so proud of our students for practicing faithful citizenship.

ACADEMICS

Effective Catholic schools exhibit a clear mission, a strong Catholic identity, a safe and orderly learning environment, and academic excellence. The hallmark of a Catholic school education has been challenging programs offered in an atmosphere that models Gospel values and supports and enhances the development of the whole child.

Assessment

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Austin use the NWEA MAP Assessments in 1st through 8th grade. With three testing windows each year, these adaptive assessments allow teachers and administrators to monitor student growth in the areas of Reading, Language Usage, Mathematics, and Science. Information about individual student growth, campus grade level growth, and diocesan-wide student growth informs instruction that can target both student weaknesses and enrichment for areas of strength.

The two charts below compare Diocese of Austin's NWEA MAP reading and math assessment averages with the national average and the averages of other Catholic schools, both nationally and within the state of Texas. The averages for the Diocese of Austin reflect the 2022-2023 school year. All other averages were taken from the 2021-2022 school year, which is the most recent school year that national and state NWEA averages are available. Any comparable change in averages between the two school years is anticipated to be statistically insignificant.



St. Thomas Aquinas Mass

The annual Catholic Schools St. Thomas Aquinas Mass recognizes middle school students for their leadership and service to the community, as well as high school students for being named National Merit Scholars.

This year's celebration took place on March 1, 2023, at St. Louis Catholic Church and School in Austin, where 60 middle school students and 48 high school students were honored.

ACCESSIBILITY

In an effort to continue fostering opportunities for more families to explore Catholic education by making it more accessible, Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Austin partnered with ACE Scholarships, Our Kids at Heart Foundation, and the Catholic Foundation - Diocese of Austin.



ACE Scholarships

support new families who meet specific income guidelines. Once the student qualifies for a scholarship, the funds can be renewed each year up to 12th grade. In 2022-2023, ACE awarded 96 scholarships for a total of \$256,000 to students in Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Austin.



Our Kids at Heart Foundation (OKAH)

provides tuition support to 172 economically disadvantaged students from parishes in Central Texas. OKAH intentionally partners with parishes and families in Austin, Taylor, Bryan, and Temple.



The Catholic Foundation - Diocese of Austin

houses many endowments for Catholic schools, which in turn provide financial support for our students. In 2022-2023 academic year, the foundation distributed \$133,495 to schools for tuition assistance.



Pastors and parish communities in the Diocese of Austin are also valuable partners in making Catholic education more accessible to more families in Central Texas.



Catholic school donors are generous individuals and organizations that believe in the transformative power of Catholic education and choose to support it.



2023 SAINTS & SCHOLARS

The annual Saints & Scholars, Celebrating Catholic Schools Gala celebrates Catholic education in the Diocese of Austin while honoring the “unsung” heroes at each of our 19 Catholic schools, and raises much-needed funds that are returned to each school in support of their tuition assistance programs for students and their families.

This past year, we celebrated the 15th anniversary of this grand event, and Mother Amata Veritas, O.P., Prioress General, Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist was the keynote speaker for the evening. Thanks to your support and generosity, we were able to **raise \$150,000 that went back to the schools, and since 2009, over \$1.8 million has been raised at this event.**



Celebrating our 2023 Honorees



Since 2009, 280 “unsung” heroes have been recognized for their commitment, dedication and service to Catholic schools. Learn more about this premier event at csdatx.org/2024ccs.

CSA SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

For the fourth year in a row, the Catholic Services Appeal has sponsored a special scholarship contest for Catholic school students. This year's scholarship theme was Joyful Disciples. Students had the opportunity to enter the contest by submitting an artistic project to describe what the theme meant to them. The committee reviewed over 150 projects and is proud to recognize the winners of this year's contest, per category:

PREK - 2ND

Jaylee S., 2nd Grade

St. Mary's Catholic School, Temple

Johan R., Kinder

St. Helen Catholic School, Georgetown

Arath and Valeria Padron, 1st Grade

Cathedral School of Saint Mary, Austin

3RD - 5TH

Rose K., 4th Grade

Holy Family Catholic School, Austin

Michael P., 3rd Grade

St. Helen Catholic School, Georgetown

Jeryl T., 4th Grade

Holy Family Catholic School, Austin

6TH - 8TH

Lilly C., 6th Grade

St. Louis Catholic School, Austin

Claire L., 6th Grade

Holy Family Catholic School, Austin

Laina P., 7th Grade

Holy Family Catholic School, Austin

HIGH SCHOOL

Cosimo D., 10th Grade

St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School,
Austin

Gustavo R., 10th Grade

San Juan Diego Catholic High School, Austin

Anna S., 9th Grade

St. Michael's Catholic Academy, Austin



In addition to the student scholarships, an additional \$15,000 was awarded directly to schools. Schools had the opportunity to submit videos explaining how they, as school communities, are called to be miracles to others. We received eight entries, and we are excited to congratulate the following winners:



**Santa Cruz
Catholic School**
\$7,500 grant



**San Juan Diego
Catholic High
School**
\$7,500 grant



DSAB

The Diocesan School Advisory Board (DSAB) advises and makes recommendations for the promotion of Catholic education to the Bishop of Austin, Most Rev. Joe S. Vásquez, and Misty Poe, Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Austin.

Members 2022-2023

Dr. Kevin Stuart - Chair
Lisette Allen - Vice-Chair
Rev. Basil Aguzie, MSP
Tara Cevallos
Rev. Chris Downey
Ned Ewart
Dr. Becky Fliss
Dr. Montserrat Fuentes
Sr. Maria Miguel Wright, OP

Ex-Officio Members from the Diocese of Austin

Most Rev. Joe S. Vásquez
Very Rev. James Misko
Mary Beth Koenig
Kelly Laster
Misty Poe
Juliana Rueda
Alison Tate
Dcn. Ron Walker

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Misty Poe
Superintendent

Kelly Laster
Assistant Superintendent

Juliana Rueda
Associate Director of
Marketing and Events

Jill Holmaas
Coordinator

Theresa Keane
School Business Manager

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

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

Praying

Lifting up our Catholic schools 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 Adoration.

Volunteering

Volunteering is another way to make a difference and advance the mission of our Catholic schools. 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

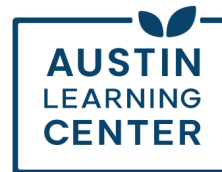
In order to provide Catholic education to as many families as possible, tuition is lower than the cost to educate a child, creating a "tuition gap." Partnering with a Catholic school through its annual fund, tuition assistance fund, or bequests is a tangible way to support the programs of the school or to help a child whose family would not otherwise experience the fruits of Catholic education.

GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Austin gratefully recognizes the generosity of all individuals, sponsors, and partners who supported our mission in 2022.

We are proud to recognize those donors who have contributed \$1,500 or more in 2022 by supporting the Catholic Services Appeal (for education), and/or Saints & Scholars - Celebrating Catholic Schools Dinner and Awards Ceremony.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



- Mike and Paula Lemonds
- Paul and Ellen Seals
- Knights of Columbus - St. John Neumann Parish, Austin
- Dufour Law
- Dr. Jose A and Catherine Martinez
- Faithful Servant
- Ron and Diane Riehs
- Rob and Leslie Suffoletta
- Dr. Ned Vanders
- David and DeeAnn Smith
- Anonymous
- Ned Ewart
- Adam and Alison Tate
- Daniel Zarzar
- David and Maureen Addison
- Gary and Nancy Polasek
- Daniel and Alanna Heyl

A full list of Catholic School donors can be found at csdatx.org/2023ccs

JOYFUL DISCIPLES PRAYER



Heavenly Father,

We praise and bless You for your infinite love. Your endless source of joy and consolation fills our schools, our homes, and our lives; we thank you for the privilege of witnessing to this love.

Open our eyes to see those most in need of Your encouragement; open our hearts to share You with all to whom we minister. Make us joyful disciples, willing to carry You to the world.

Lord, we ask for the strength and courage to spend every moment of our lives in total abandonment to You, for only You can give the freedom our hearts long for.

May this faithful discipleship bring us at last to eternal union with you and fellowship with the saints, where our joy will know no end.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

DIOCESE OF AUSTIN

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