

Catholic Schools *of the* Diocese of Knoxville



Preparing Scholars, Leaders, and Saints

2016/2017 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Friends in Christ,

Colossians 3:12-17 reminds each of us to “do everything in the name of Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.” Our Catholic schools in a special way emulate the universal call to teach and serve. This year we rejoice in their accomplishment of becoming accredited as a Catholic school system through the rigorous accreditation process of AdvancED and the National Standards and Benchmarks of Effective Catholic Schools. Achieving accreditation through this organization is a mark of excellence and is a recognition of the time, talent, and treasure invested by parents, teachers, administrators, and students to make the most of the educational opportunities at the heart of our Catholic schools.

**We do together what we
cannot do alone!**

Pope Saint John Paul II said to “place your talents and enthusiasm in the service of life.” As I visit throughout our diocese, I see the actions of so many as a living witness to this statement. It is certainly an exciting time as we enter our 30th year as a diocese. There is so much to be thankful for and to celebrate as we look forward to dedicating our new Cathedral and fully utilizing Christ Prince of Peace Retreat Center. We do together what we cannot do alone!

This Annual Report provides a snapshot of other achievements as our schools live their mission of preparing scholars, leaders, and saints. We offer this in celebration and gratitude for the gift of Catholic school education in the Diocese of Knoxville.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard F. Stika
Bishop of Knoxville



Saint Joseph School, Knoxville

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Knoxville Catholic High
School Daily Mass

MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Knoxville prepare: scholars, leaders, and saints.

Catholic identity is woven throughout all content areas, and all stakeholders, without exception, identified Catholic identity as the number one strength of the Catholic schools.

-AdvancEd Accreditation Review Team (2017)

Empowered by the Holy Spirit and recognizing the vital ministry of Catholic education to the future of the Church and nation, we will provide a learning environment that emphasizes quality education and spiritual growth for all. The Catholic Schools Office established the following CORE VALUES to realize our vision:

CATHOLIC IDENTITY SERVICE TO GOD DIGNITY OF THE PERSON HONOR & INTEGRITY EXCELLENCE & LEADERSHIP



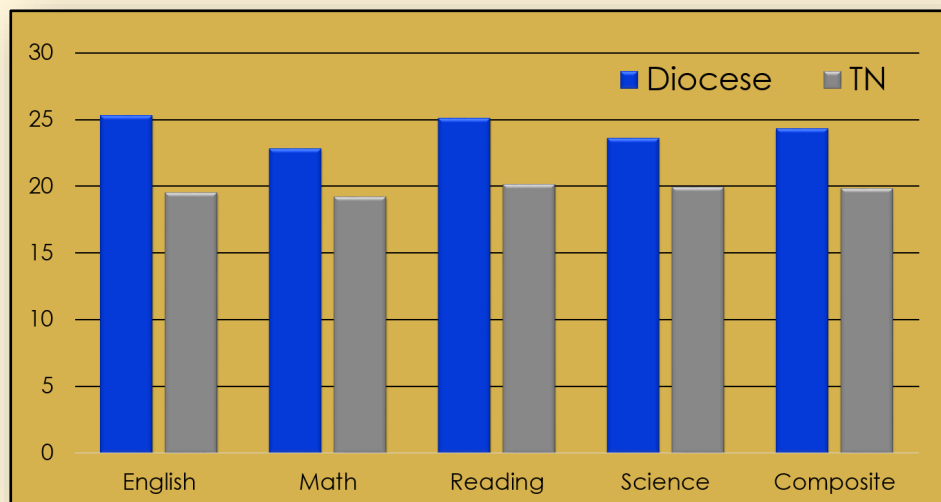
Saint Dominic School, Kingsport

Put on then as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. And over all these put on love. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

- Colossians 3:12-17

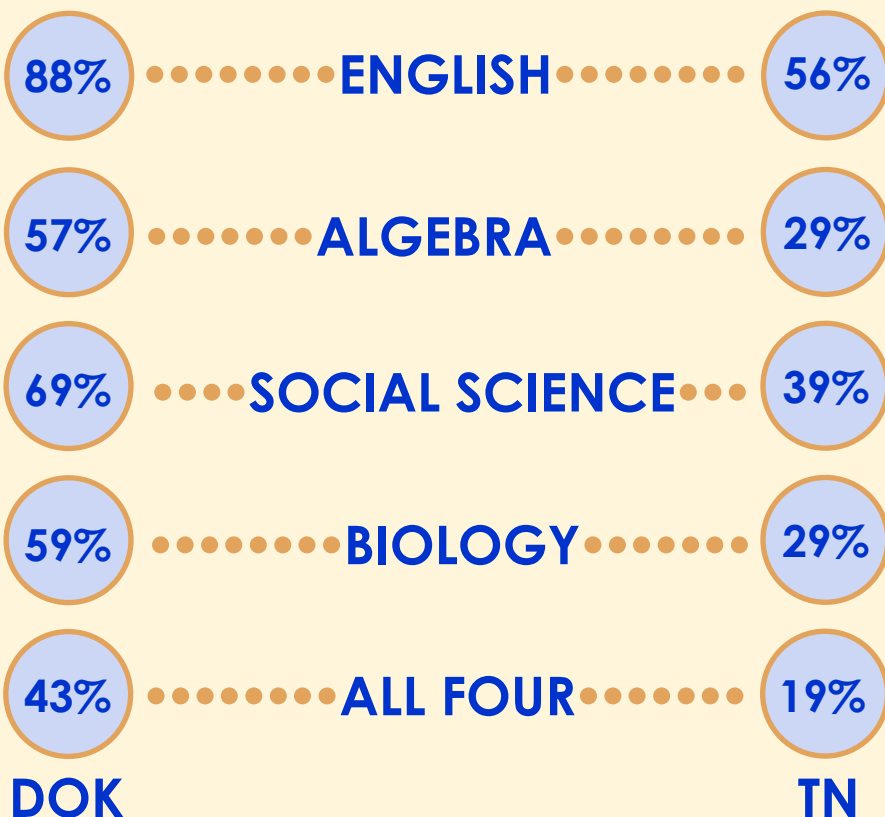
HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARS

Knoxville Catholic High School and Notre Dame High School continue to exceed state averages in standardized testing. Our composite average of 24.3 outpaces Tennessee's by 4.5 points!



COLLEGE READINESS

The data in the ACT report help determine how well our high schools are preparing students for college-level work. Our results indicate that 43 percent of the Class of 2017 meet the benchmark for collegiate success in all four subjects, with an outstanding 88 percent college-ready in English! Across the board, our college readiness stats are significantly higher than the state averages.



TOP 1 TEN!

Nearly 20,000 service hours contributed in our communities and throughout the world.

2

\$26.6 million offered in college scholarships to the Class of 2017.

3

100% graduation rate

4

14 students recognized as National Merit Scholars.

5

More than 70% of NDHS senior class earned college credit through Advanced Placement (AP) or Dual Enrollment

6

70% of KCHS students in AP courses earned a 3 or higher, qualifying for college credit.

7

13 National Foreign Language Exam medalists

8

Student-led volunteer projects that collaborated with more than 22 charities.

9

Mission trips to Haiti and Belize to work with children affected by poverty, HIV, natural disasters, and limited access to resources.

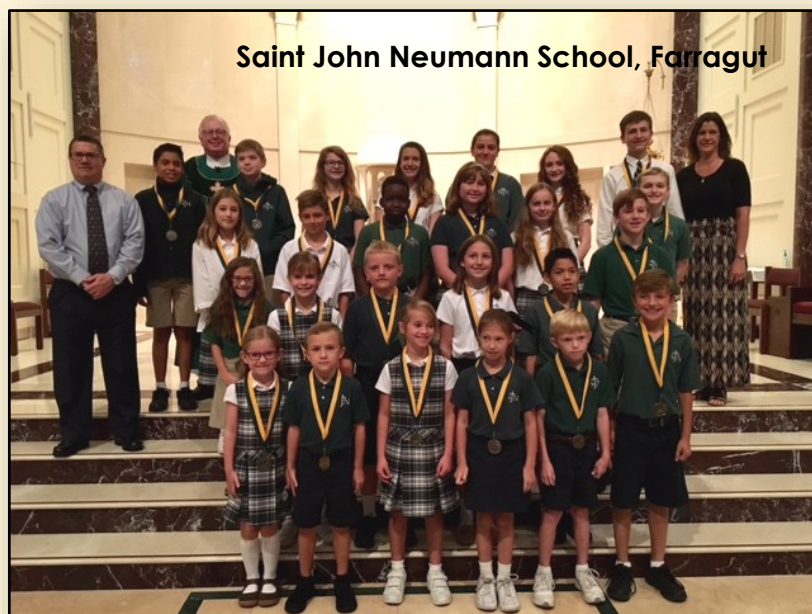
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Class of 2017 is attending 150 colleges across the country, and in Argentina and Australia.

FOUNDATION SCHOOL SCHOLARS

The elementary and middle schools in our diocese have prepared students for success in high school, college, and beyond. Students in our Catholic foundation schools tested in the top quarter of the nation in grades 1, 2, 7, and 8, and in the top third in the remaining grades.

Notably, grades 1, 7, and 8 scored in the top 15 percent of the nation in Reading/English/Language Arts. **Grade 2 scored in the top 10 percent in mathematical computation.**



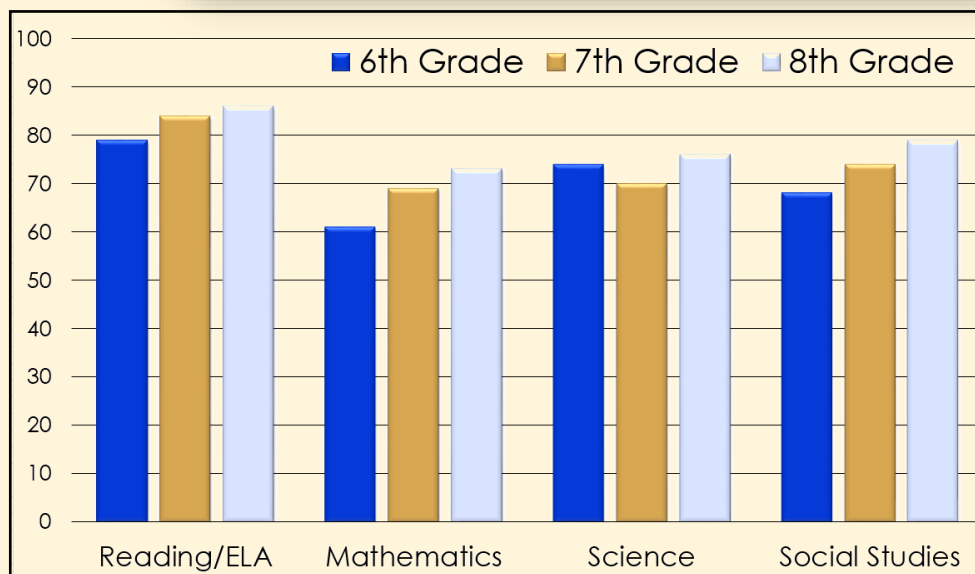
1st
Top 15%

7th
Top 15%

8th
Top 15%

2nd
Top 10%

..... **IN THE NATION**



STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, arts, and math) strategies have been implemented in our schools. Our success is evidenced not only by high test scores but also by standout student performances throughout our diocese.

- ⇒ 48% of 7th-grade students participated in Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP)
- ⇒ 46% of all middle school award winners in the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair attend one of our Catholic schools
- ⇒ Top 10 finish in the National Geography Bee
- ⇒ VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest national winner
- ⇒ History Project state champion

DEMOGRAPHICS

Every person is given a universal path to salvation. Our Catholic schools recognize that our students’ ultimate destination is Heaven, and we support *every* young person that walks our hallways during this journey to sainthood. We aim to offer a Catholic education to all families from all walks of life.

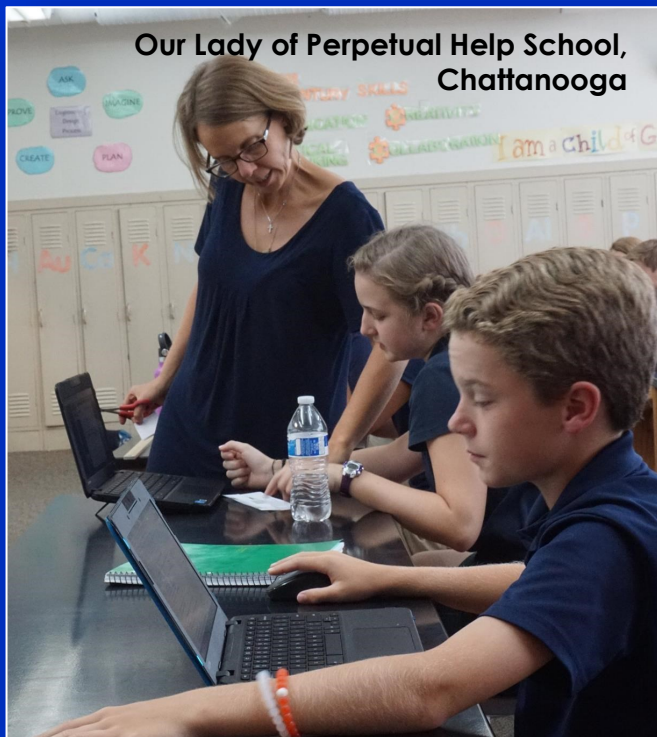
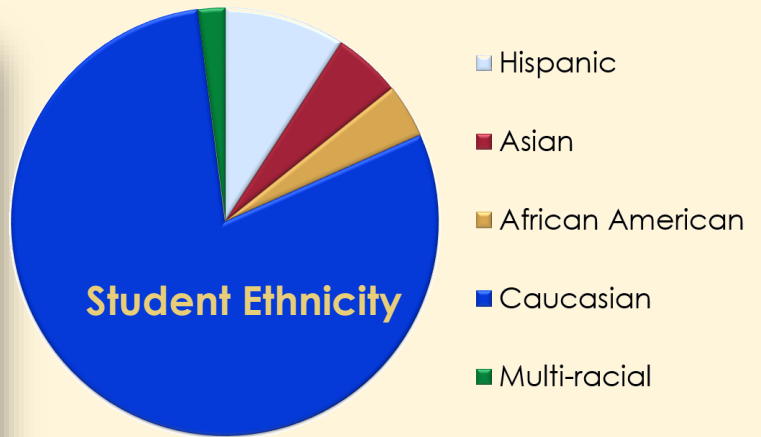


Knoxville Catholic High School

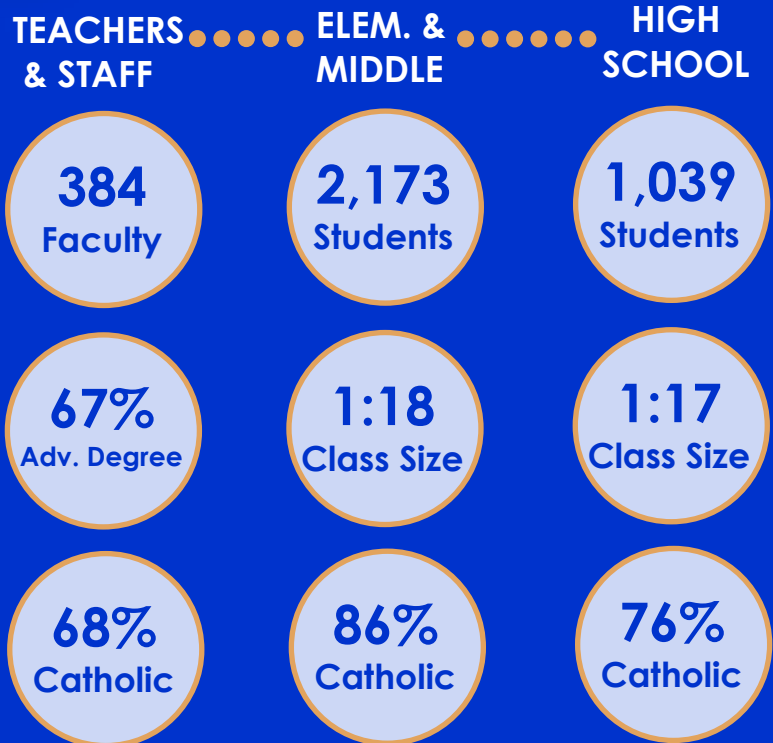
“We cannot keep ourselves shut up in parishes, in our communities, when so many people are waiting for the Gospel.”
-Pope Francis



Sacred Heart Cathedral School, Knoxville



Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Chattanooga

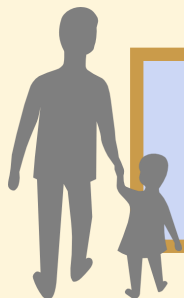




\$4.3 Million
Direct Tuition Support

SERVICE & SUPPORT

18,233 Foundation
19,746 High School
Service Hours Reported



22 Charities
Benefited from Outreach

\$335,696 in Grants
Given from St. Mary's Legacy
Foundation to our Schools



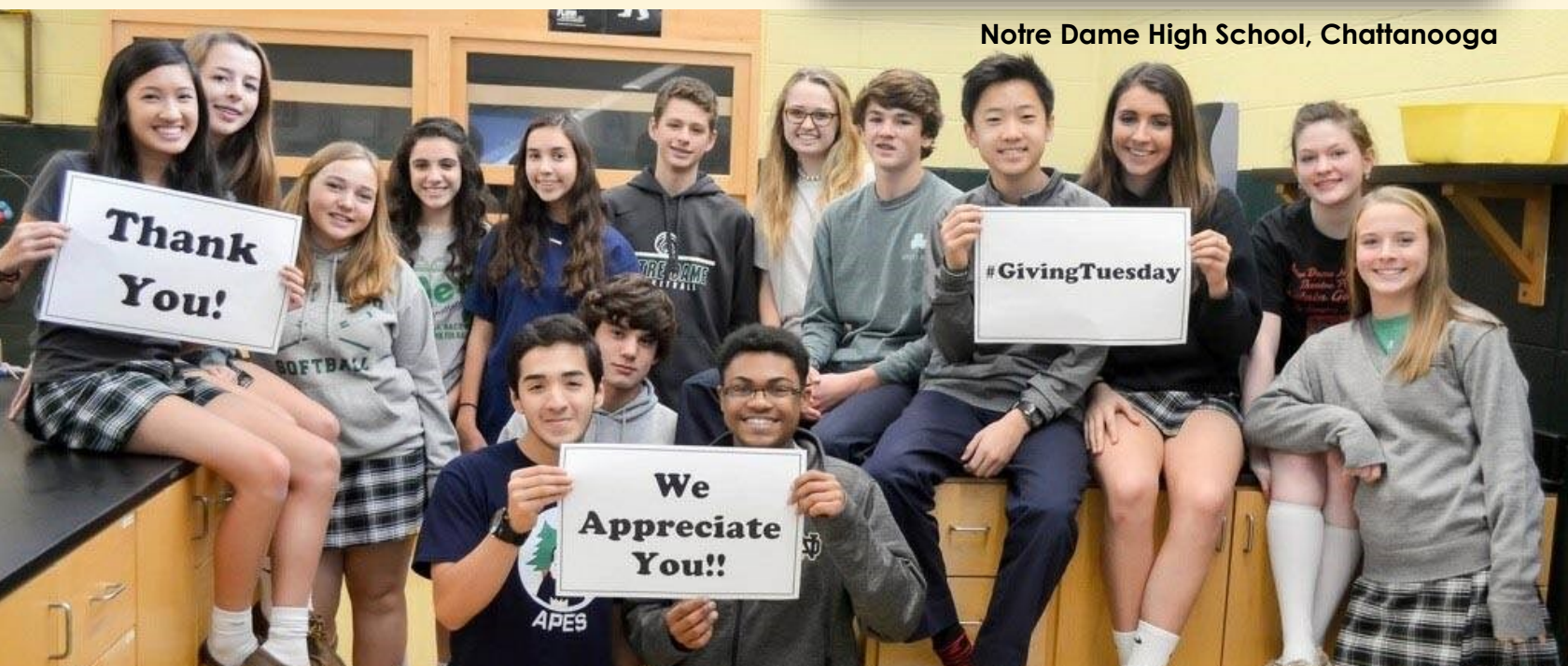
5%
Education Contribution
From all Parishes to Schools



Our Lady of Perpetual Help School,
Chattanooga



Saint Dominic School, Kingsport



Notre Dame High School, Chattanooga

FINE ARTS

●●●●●●●●●● ACCOLADES ●●●●●●●●●●

James West, Tom Tortora, Matthew Ramos, and Thomas Kollie were selected for Tennessee All State Band; 13 students received All-East Honors.

High schools received superior ratings at State Concert Band Festival.

Alex Dusky, Matt Carson, and Robert Crowell were named to the Tennessee All State Chorus; 10 students were selected for All East Choir.

KCHS received first place among high schools in Oak Ridge Chalk Walk.

Ethan Johnson won the National Lego Competition with a piece titled *The Last Supper*.

Nani Fishman and Bethany Lacey attended Governor's School for Art.

Saint John Neumann Catholic School (SJNCS) received a superior rating at State Concert Band Festival.

Three intermediate students qualified for the East Middle School Honor Choir.

SJNCS student received a first place award at Dogwood Arts Festival.



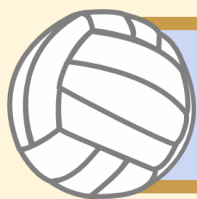
Saint Mary's School, Johnson City

Three schools received a Superior rating for band, the highest score awarded!

Saint Joseph School, Knoxville

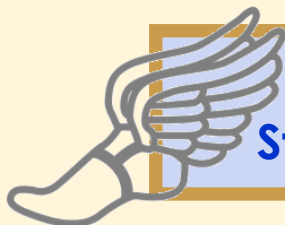


.....HIGH SCHOOLS.....



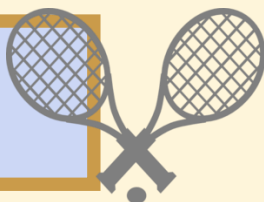
**Volleyball
State Champs**

**Boys Cross Country
State Champs**



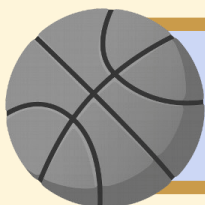
**Boys Track
State Champs**

**Girls Tennis
State Champs**



**Wrestling Individual
State Champ**

**Mr. Football Winner
Lineman & Back**



**Mr. Basketball
Finalist**

**2 Swimming
All-Americans**



**All-American
Wrestler**

ATHLETICS



.....FOUNDATION.....

Intermediate School Conference
(ISC) Championship in Track & Field
(St. Jude)

State Golf Champion (Kennedy
Anne Noe, Sacred Heart)

State Cross Country Champion
(Keegan Smith, Sacred Heart)



SYSTEM ACCREDITATION

February 20-23, 2017, the Diocese of Knoxville hosted an AdvancED External Quality Assurance Review Team composed of eight Catholic diocesan leaders and professional educators from across the nation for accreditation.

**210 Stakeholders
Interviewed**

**88 Classrooms
Observed**

**5,806 Surveys
Administered**

Comments cited by the Accreditation Team:

Classrooms were well-managed with respectful interactions among peers and between students and teachers.

A variety of teaching methods were evident, and students were engaged in diverse activities.

The Catholic schools of the Diocese, through the use of the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools, have affirmed the dual mission of faith formation and academic excellence.

AdvancED Quality Assurance Team Findings:

- 1** Leadership and staff at all levels of the system foster a culture consistent with the system's purpose and direction.
- 2** The school leadership and staff at all levels of the Diocese embrace a Catholic identity that is demonstrated through shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning and supports challenging, equitable educational programs and formation experiences for all students that include achievement of learning, thinking, and life skills.
- 3** System leadership consistently fosters and respects the autonomy of all school-level leadership.
- 4** The Diocese establishes and maintains a clearly defined and comprehensive student assessment system.





SCHOLARS, LEADERS, & SAINTS

For the past two and a half years, our Catholic schools have been involved in rigorous self-assessments. The efforts culminated in a successful quality assurance review and system accreditation through AdvancED. It also resulted in tangible goals for continuous improvement through the creation of individual school improvement plans as well as a **Diocesan Catholic Schools Strategic Improvement Plan**.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

-Jeremiah 29:11

The **Strategic Improvement Plan** provides a blueprint for the system to continue to realize its vision of excellence in Catholic school education. The plan is a “living plan.” Therefore, our vision is more important than the document, as it will be revisited and revised as necessary to meet the changing needs of our schools and communities.

Diocesan Catholic Schools Prioritized System Goals:

- 1 Adopt and maintain standards for feasible 3-5-year financial plans for Catholic schools that include current and projected budgets and are the result of collaborative processes emphasizing faithful stewardship.
- 2 Enact a communications and marketing plan for Catholic schools developed in collaboration with Catholic school leaders and community stakeholders to increase enrollment in Catholic schools by building awareness of the evangelizing mission and academic excellence of Catholic schools in East Tennessee.
- 3 Communicate Catholic school system news, accomplishments, initiatives, and improvement plans to all stakeholders in a timely and organized manner.
- 4 Improve student achievement across all subgroups through the use of collaborative structures that enhance the use of best instructional practices.

In the coming months, all stakeholders should become aware of our progress in achieving these goals to ensure operational vitality of all of our schools into the future.

Because of Jesus,

Sister Mary Martha Abbott, R.S.M.

Sister Mary Martha Abbott, RSM, EdS
Superintendent of Catholic Schools





SACRED HEART
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
EST. 1956

STJN SAINT JOHN NEUMANN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Catholic Schools *of the* Diocese of Knoxville

