

Diocese of Knoxville

Catholic Schools

2017-2018 Annual Report



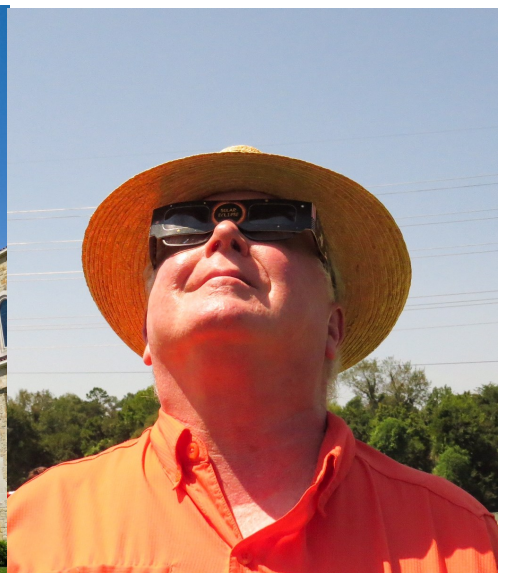
The Most Reverend Richard F. Stika

The 2017-2018 school year began with our eyes fixated on the heavens for the dazzling solar eclipse. The sun's brilliant display cast a glimmer of the wonderful things to come in the year ahead. Our students' light radiated with many achievements and accomplishments. This report provides a brief summary of the 2017-2018 school year in an effort to capture and express our gratitude for the goodness of the Lord and our thankfulness for our Catholic schools, administrators, faculty, staff, students, and families.



Let your light shine before others, that they might see your good works, and glorify your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:16



Catholic schools of
the Diocese of
Knoxville prepare
scholars, leaders,
and saints!

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.



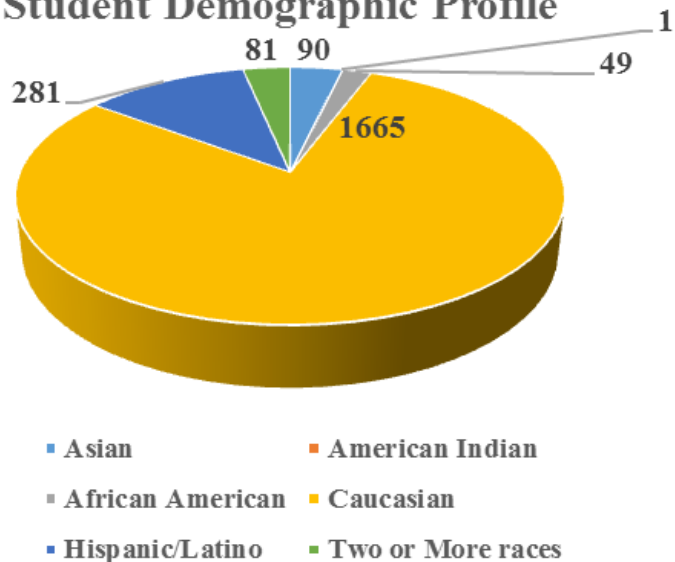
SACRED HEART
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
EST. 1956



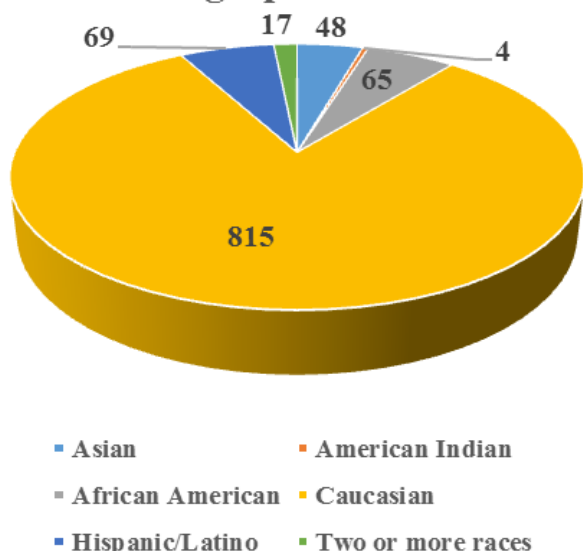
SAINT JOHN NEUMANN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Demographic Profile

Elementary/Middle School Student Demographic Profile



Secondary School Student Demographic Profile



During the 2017-2018 school year, there were 3,185 total pre-K through grade 12 students enrolled in the 10 Catholic schools within the Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Tri-Cities regions. The elementary/middle school students (2,167) represented students in preschool through grade eight and consisted of 90% Caucasian, 4% Asian, 2% African American, and 4% two or more races. Thirteen percent of the elementary student population reported to be of Hispanic or Latino heritage.

Of the 3,185 total students, 1,018 attended the two high schools. Caucasian students (87%) represented the highest distribution, followed by African American (6%), Asian (5%), and two or more races (2%). Sixty-nine students, or 6%, indicated Hispanic ethnicity.

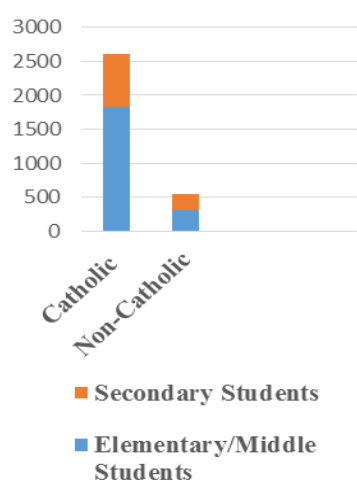
Our Catholic schools believe strongly in the dignity of all individuals and do their best to educate the children of God regardless of different learning and behavior needs, language acquisition, and/or socio-economic status. Approximately 20% of our students have exceptional learning needs, and another 14% have diverse linguistic backgrounds with a native language other than English. All students are fully included in the educational program and receive individualized interventions or academic support as needed. To assist with accommodating these diverse needs, schools use resources and services provided through federal equitable-funding grants such as Title I for academically and economically challenged students, as well as Title III for students learning English for academic fluency.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Chattanooga



Student Religious Affiliation Profile



Our Catholic schools serve students from various religious affiliations, yet the highest percentage of students in our elementary and secondary schools are Catholic. In the elementary/middle school (preK-8) 84% are Catholic, and 76% at the high school level.



392 professional educators, including 11 religious sisters, one deacon and four priests serve our students in our 10 schools.



Notre Dame High School, Chattanooga



Scholars, Leaders, and Saints!



Knoxville Catholic High School

Grade	ELA	Math	S.S.	Science	Core Composite
3	78	73	73	76	75
4	79	73	71	76	74
5	72	68	69	67	68
6	80	67	70	71	71
7	86	70	72	69	77
8	86	75	78	79	80



Saint Mary, Oak Ridge

Grade 4

- ELA Total Score 79; Math Total Score 73; Science 76
- Top 25% of the nation

Grade 7

- ELA Total Score 86; Core Composite 77
- Top 15-25% of the nation

Grade 8

- ELA Total Score 86; Math Total 75; Core Composite 80
- Top 10-15% of the nation

Our Students Shine Bright

Students in our high schools and elementary/middle schools shined brightly this past year in so many ways. Our secondary students’ academic and co-curricular accomplishments have soared to new heights. They have demonstrated versatility and leadership through their commitment to a variety of academic, service, and co-curricular activities. Student performance on the college entrance exam ACT revealed some of the highest scores—with several students achieving a perfect score of 36. Each high school had students qualify as national merit scholars and national merit semi-finalists on the SAT (college entrance exam). High school seniors in 2018 received over \$31 million in scholarship offers to 139 different colleges and universities in 25 states and the country of China. Some high school seniors were commissioned with military appointments. High school students availed themselves of advanced placement course work and were eligible to receive college credit 77% of the time compared to 57% in the state and 61% in the nation. Students were recipients of awards in various academic endeavors including national foreign language exams, writing competitions, STEM and robotics, fashion design, jazz band, All-East Tennessee Band, All-East Tennessee Honor Choir, and technology. Success occurred in the classroom as well as on the playing field or the music hall. For the first time in history, both high school football teams competed for state championship titles. High school students have also given witness to their Catholic identity through over 19,000 hours of service activities and participated in numerous retreats, devotions and other acts of ministry. One of the highlights for secondary students was the special presentation by the Catholic speaker Jason Evert.

Students in grades three through eight take nationally normed Iowa Assessments every spring. The series of assessments compare student performance in English/Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science to students in over 200,000 schools across the nation. The scores reported on the left are based on national percentile ranks (NPRs) with a range of 1-99 and an average mean of 50. As evidenced in the accompanying graphic, students in our elementary/middle schools generally performed in the highest quartile.



Our Catholic school mission and core values unite us. From the Catholic Schools’ Office to the farthest corners of East Tennessee—in the classrooms, on the playing fields, in the lunch line, in the church, and on the playground, this is who we are and why we are here.



Blessed and Grateful

How do you capture a year of memorable moments? Achievements and accolades can only provide a glimpse into the year. Students in our Catholic schools have the opportunity to participate in numerous curricular and co-curricular experiences and activities. These programs include service, athletics, fine arts, music, academic competitions, and experiential learning. These wonderful opportunities are made possible by the gifts of so many faithful supporters of Catholic-school education. Our schools are greatly supported and strengthened by vibrant parish communities, energetic volunteers, dedicated educators, and supportive community donors and sponsors. For each person who has given of his or her time, talent, or treasure for the benefit of our Catholic schools, we would like to say THANK YOU!

This past year the diocese awarded over \$4 million in tuition support for families. We are extremely grateful and recognize the generous contributions of all our parishioners, St. Mary’s Legacy Foundation of East Tennessee, Catholic Education Trust Fund, and fundraising efforts made to increase tuition support and revenue for the schools through the numerous projects conducted by the schools, including the first diocesan-wide School Raffle/Calendar initiative. In addition, \$77,000 was collected during the second collection held in August 2017 to assist families with the cost of Catholic education. Our schools also seek revenue from grants and other community sources. Listed below are some of the awards bestowed this past year for special programs.

- \$25,000 awarded to St. Joseph Catholic School from St. Mary’s Legacy Foundation for the addition of a middle school student wing.
- \$20,000 awarded to Notre Dame High School from St. Mary’s Legacy Foundation for a fire detection and notification system in the main school building.
- \$10,000 awarded to Knoxville Catholic High School from St. Mary’s Legacy Foundation for classroom technology upgrades.
- \$20,000 awarded to St. Jude Catholic School from St. Mary’s Legacy Foundation for technology digital devices for middle school students.
- \$1,000 awarded to St. Dominic Catholic School by Eastman Chemical Co. for recycling efforts through the Good Schools Always Recycle program.
- \$1,000 awarded to Notre Dame High School by Eastman Chemical Co. for recycling efforts through the Good Schools Always Recycle program.
- \$500 awarded to St. Dominic Catholic School by Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution for a greenhouse classroom grant.



St. Mary’s Legacy Foundation of East Tennessee



Service and Community Outreach

It is a priority for our students to learn how to use their gifts for the welfare of others and improvement within our local and global communities. Secondary students in middle and high school tracked over 37,000 hours of service this past year. While elementary students’ service activities are not tracked for hours, many different organizations and individuals benefited from the efforts made by students in our schools. Some highlights from this past year include:

- St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital
- Food collections for Ladies of Charity, St. Vincent de Paul societies, Second Harvest Food Bank, FISH pantry, and Chattanooga Food Bank
- Blankets for Project Linus
- Collections for those impacted by hurricanes Harvey and Maria
- Columbus Home
- East Tennessee Children’s Hospital
- T.C. Thompson Children’s Hospital
- Family Promise
- Sister parishes and schools in Haiti



Sister Mary Marta Abbott, RSM, Superintendent of Schools, and the preschool students from St. Dominic Catholic School, Kingsport.



Educators Light the Way

Teachers in our schools model a commitment to lifelong learning. Even though 61% hold advanced degrees, our educators continue to strive to improve their knowledge and instructional practices by embracing opportunities for increased professional learning. This past year, our schools benefited collectively from \$156,000 in Title II allocations to improve professional expertise and practice. These allocations allowed for teachers to attend national conferences by respected educators in specific fields, to bring in individual consultants and instructional coaches, and to purchase books and other professional materials for use within the school. Most schools were also able to conduct a site-based curriculum audit on mathematics instructional practices to use as a foundational piece of data for future professional development needs in the area of mathematical instruction.



Implementation of *SuperKids* Reading Program for K-2

Focusing on literacy during the early years of education in preschool through grade two led our schools to implement a phonologically based reading program known as *SuperKids*. Students are taught letter and sound associations in systematic, engaging ways with the SuperKids characters. The instruction is further enhanced by multiple modalities in learning such as auditory, visual, and kinesthetic methods. Teachers in early childhood education (preschool through grade two) have been engaged in interactive workshops on the child’s brain and neural pathways for early literacy, as well as evidenced-based strategies in differentiation for diverse learning needs of students. Although phonics instruction and direct instruction do not encapsulate everything young readers need to know, these tools build a gateway to a lifetime of reading.

A word from our Superintendent

One of the main privileges of being superintendent of our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Knoxville is that our bishop encourages me to focus on building relationships. When I go to meetings with other superintendents from dioceses across the country, I often share how I view myself as not the typical superintendent because of my ability to frequently visit the schools. With the blessing and encouragement of Bishop Stika, and the assistance of Sedonna Prater, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, as well as my administrative assistant, Marie Garvey, I am able to spend a large amount of my time in the schools sharing the light of Christ and being a witness of a religious sister within the school communities. Every year I am able to visit each of the schools a minimum of five times for both special events and daily happenings. During these visits, I am able to visit classrooms and talk directly with students and teachers, participate in Mass and school prayer, observe student achievements, whether in the classroom, the gym, the music room, or in the cafeteria, and simply to be present for our school leaders and the community. On a recent visit to one of the foundation schools, a student commented to me that she could not receive communion because she is not Catholic. I shared with her that although that may be true, she can always make a spiritual communion. The smile on her face radiated pure joy. I receive this joy back from my relationships with our students and school communities.

I hope you will join with me in thanksgiving for the gift of Catholic school education. In a special way, I would also ask that you pray for our school leaders, teachers, and faculty members so that they can be the vessels of His love and joy every day in this important ministry of our Church. All glory and honor is our Lord’s.



Visit our website for monthly highlights and other information about our Catholic schools in East Tennessee.

www.dioknox.org/schools

University of Notre Dame English as a New Language Professional Development

Sixty-seven teachers from all 10 of our schools embraced the opportunity to complete online professional training in instructional practices and cultural competency to teach English language learners through the University of Notre Dame’s ENL online professional development program. These teachers completed modules in language acquisition, vocabulary strategies, cultural inclusion, evidenced-based strategies for English language learners, and instructional strategies in literacy. This responsive effort to increase the collective knowledge in serving students and their families from diverse linguistic backgrounds correlates to the changing demographics within our churches and parishes. Demographic studies indicate that 64% of all Catholics under the age of 18 are of Hispanic heritage. With this in mind, school leaders and pastors from four of our schools have also attended the Latino outreach intensive training workshop conducted by the University of Notre Dame through its Alliance for Catholic Education.

