



The Diocese of Knoxville

Living our Roman Catholic faith in East Tennessee

MEDIA ADVISORY
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Diocese of Knoxville Catholic schools earn system reaccreditation

KNOXVILLE– The Diocese of Knoxville has announced that its 10 Catholic schools have met the standards of excellence for system reaccreditation by Cognia, a nonprofit organization that provides quality assurance for schools, school districts, and education service providers.

Cognia, formerly AdvancED, recognizes districts that meet rigorous standards that focus on productive learning environments, equitable resource allocation, and effective leadership. Earning accreditation from Cognia means that the Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Schools are recognized across the nation as a school system that meets both the *Cognia Standards of Quality* and the *National Standards and Benchmarks of Effective Catholic Schools*.

The Cognia accreditation is recognized by the Tennessee Department of Education.

Compliance with these standards indicate the system maintains a commitment to continuous improvement through the four domains of Catholic school excellence: Mission and Catholic Identity, Governance and Leadership, Academic Excellence, and Operational Vitality.

“Our schools have been accredited for many years, but in 2017, the Diocese of Knoxville earned system accreditation. System accreditation by Cognia provides the Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Schools a nationally recognized mark of quality for our system and for each school within our system,” said Dr. Sedonna Prater, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Knoxville. “This achievement of reaccreditation demonstrates to our community our continuous commitment to excellence, our openness to external review and feedback, and our desire to be the best we can be on behalf of the students we serve.”

To achieve accreditation from Cognia, a school district must implement a continuous process of improvement and submit to internal and external quality assurance reviews. School systems in good standing can maintain their accreditation for a five-year term.

“Cognia System Accreditation is a rigorous process that focuses the entire school system and its community on the primary goal of preparing lifelong learners in engaging environments where all students can flourish,” said Dr. Mark A. Elgart, president, and CEO of Cognia. The Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Schools are to be commended for demonstrating that it has met high standards and is making progress on key indicators that impact student learning.”

About Diocese of Knoxville Catholic schools

The Diocese of Knoxville offers excellence in education with 10 Cognia accredited Catholic, private schools located in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Kingsport, Johnson City, and Oak Ridge. We are committed to providing supportive learning environments for our children rooted in the love of Christ. Our parochial school system provides Pre-K, K-8, and high school education. Learn more at dioknox.org/schools.

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