



2013-2014 Annual Report

Diocese of Worcester Catholic Schools Office



Catholic Schools Inspire and Achieve Excellence

Educational experts who evaluate schools across the country always come away praising Catholic schools. Usually, they point to academic achievement and the enviable graduation rates which are typical of Catholic schools. They often speak of an 'added value' that's present in Catholic schools although they experience great difficulty in articulating exactly what they mean.

There is, in fact, an added value in Catholic schools which is crystal clear to Catholics. The added value is that Catholic schools are grounded in the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ. They are completely Christ-centered. They attract teachers, administrators, staff, and volunteers who regard their work as a special calling. Their dedication and nurturing spirit creates faith-based Catholic schools that inspire excellence in every detail.

Each child learns that he or she is a child of God, filled with the dignity of being created in His image. Given that as a starting point, expectations are high for each student. No matter who they are or what their background is, Catholic school students are expected to achieve, and they do. Parents can attest to their very young children sharing Gospel stories and religious songs as their faith-based education takes root. Further evidence of character development can be seen where community service is not simply a humanitarian gesture but rather an expression of faith in keeping

with the commandments of Jesus. It's also evident in sports where Catholic school athletes exhibit a determination that wins the admiration of fans regardless of the final score. Beyond that, graduates of Catholic schools take their next step with keen awareness that God is always with them. They know that there is no reason to fear the unknown because God will keep them safe whatever life has in store.

The greatest 'added value', however is still to come. The Catholic school students of today are destined to be among our best gifts to the Church of tomorrow. Moreover, as they enter the world of work and professional life, we can already see the good they are capable of doing.

Those added dimensions, however, would not be possible without you. The Catholic School Appeal directly assists hard-pressed parents with financial aid. This is why I am pleased to express my sincere gratitude to our benefactors, to our parishioners, and to our priests for their unwavering generous support.

With every prayerful wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Robert J. McManus

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, S.T.D.
Bishop of Worcester

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS MESSAGE

Catholic Schools Tradition and Vision Worthy of Your Support

A walk into a Catholic school today leaves a lasting impression. While Catholic schools have adapted to the continuing knowledge explosions, the critical characteristics of a Catholic school are clearly present. There is a palpable feeling in a Catholic school that is only present in a faith-based learning environment. The Catholic identity of the school is clearly evident. Our students know God loves them. Visitors are impressed with the confidence and courtesy they observe in the students of all ages who warmly greet them with firm handshakes and eye contact.

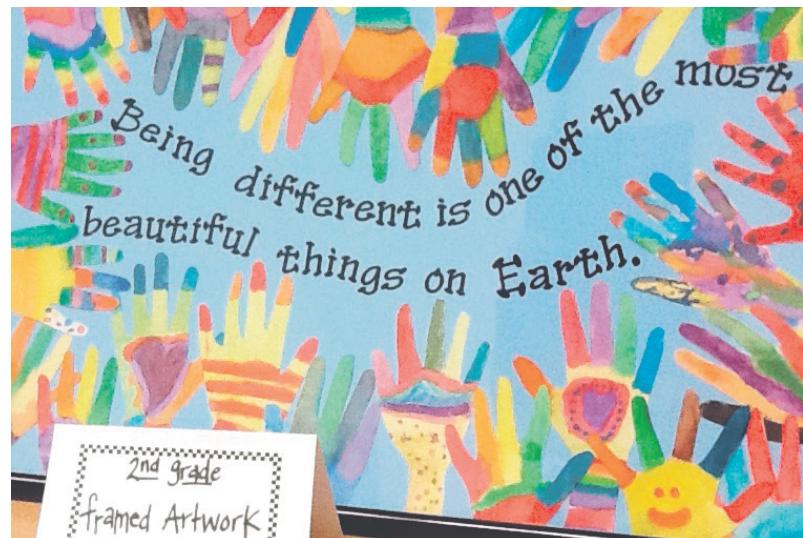
Catholic schools are models of true liberal excellent education. Every effort is made to insure that each student knows his own mind, exercises virtue, and becomes a thoughtful participant in civil society. In keeping with the teaching of Jesus, students are encouraged to seek academic excellence while learning about what is true, good, and beautiful in their own lives and in contributing to the well being of others.

The visitor will note a sense of expectancy where excellence is the norm. Teachers are expected to teach, students are expected to learn. Tradition and history marked with the sign of faith are essential, but so too are science, technology, and mathematics along with classical literature, the arts, music, drama, and athletics. Together, these play a vital part in the education of the whole person - mind, body, and spirit. While students in Catholic schools are tested, testing does not drive the schools. It is not enough for our students to meet minimal state and various national standards. Catholic schools are called to go well beyond and they do. Compare our graduation and college acceptance rates with those of the urban and suburban communities in which we have Catholic schools. The comparison in achievement is impressive.

Catholic schools impart a solid Christian formation while providing students with the best tools possible to fulfill their future roles as good citizens, as productive employees, and as competent and caring professionals and individuals.

Catholic schools are centers of faith and good works. Community service and outreach to the poor develop an awareness of social responsibility intended to last a lifetime.

Only through the grace of God and the generous support of Catholics and non-Catholics alike can Catholic edu-



cation grow and thrive. It is in gratitude to our many past and current benefactors that I present this Annual Report and ask for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

Delma Josephson, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

VALUES WITHIN

Called to transform
this world
in which we live



FAITH

Catholic schools are faith-based communities where belief in God is part of the total school environment. Daily prayer, the sacraments, and sacred images are constant reminders of the message of Jesus through the Gospel.

Seventy-two percent of the students in Catholic schools are Catholic. Yet, twenty-eight percent of the students in our schools are from non-Catholic families whose parents value the academic excellence of a Catholic school education and respect the beliefs and higher sense of purpose. That higher sense of purpose offers each student the opportunity to learn and grow in a learning environment which strives to develop character by educating the whole child, including the mind, heart, and spirit. Only in a school that respects the spirituality of the person can the whole child truly be educated.

TECHNOLOGY

Because today's world requires a working facility and understanding of technology, Catholic schools incorporate the appropriate and meaningful use of current technology from pre-kindergarten to high school. Catholic schools promote safe and ethical use of electronic media.

Classrooms with up to date technology engage the students in an interactive learning process that bridges the Catholic traditional education with the learning tools and skills of today's methodology.



ACADEMICS

"Hold fast to instruction, never let it go; keep it, for it is your life."

- Proverbs 4:13

Academic achievement in Catholic schools begins with the right kind of environment and the firm belief that every child can achieve success. Individual attention comes from caring, highly qualified teachers, the involvement of loving parents, and the example of other motivated students. The curriculum is unapologetically rigorous and challenging. The intent is

for all students to excel.

While Catholic school students achieve higher than average scores on standardized tests like the TerraNova nationally norm referenced test, that is only part of the story. Catholic school students think critically about what they are studying and how it connects to what they have already learned as well as to the world around them. They are prepared to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Because the Gospel message teaches us to foster service to others, Catholic schools provide a variety of opportunities for students to serve the poor, the sick, and those in need, in imitation of Jesus. Community service, therefore, is more than simply a humanitarian gesture. Community service is a spiritual responsibility. In that same spirit, each Catholic school and its students from all grade levels become deeply engaged in programs designed to offer assistance wherever needs exist in the larger community.

"I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."
- John 13:15

ATHLETICS

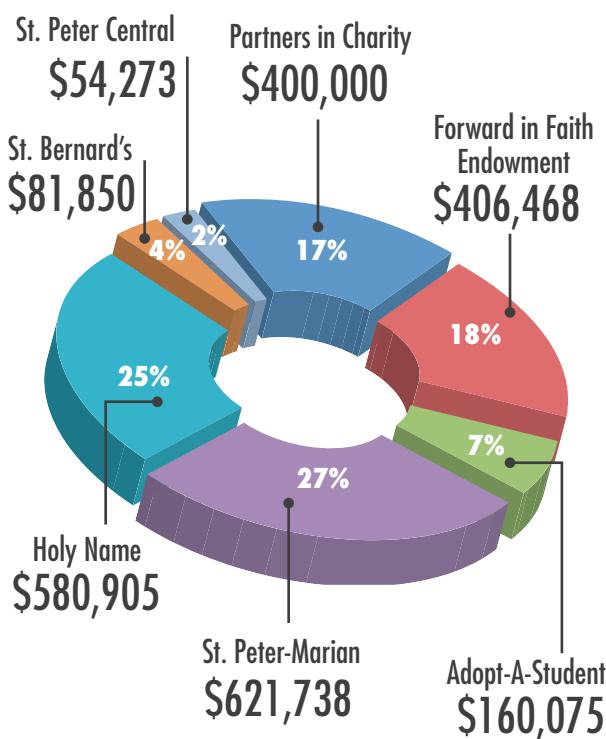
Every Catholic school provides sports programs as an integral part of its philosophy to develop the whole person. In addition to promoting physical fitness, students develop leadership skills, learn cooperation and build self-confidence. Competitive sports in Catholic schools are also designed to build virtue and promote good character models.

Beyond that, win or lose, Catholic school teams own a well-earned reputation for playing like true champions regardless of who they are playing. For example, the St. Peter-Marian football team received a Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Sportsmanship Award. This explains why the bleachers fill easily when a Catholic school is playing.





Tuition assistance and scholarship programs 2013-2014 school year



FINANCIAL AID

Your generosity helped 857 students receive tuition assistance totaling \$966,543 through Partners in Charity, Forward in Faith and the Adopt-A-Student Programs. In addition, 944 Central Catholic school students received tuition assistance in the amount of \$1,338,766 from individual school scholarship programs. Parish, regional, and independent Catholic schools also provided additional tuition assistance. Thank you!

GRADUATION RATE

The graduation rates in 2013 for towns in the Diocese in which we have public schools range from a low of 69.7% to a high of 97.5%.

The Massachusetts Department of Education latest listing of graduates attending colleges is for the 2011-2012 school year. They reported an average of 70.92% for the towns in which we have schools. The college acceptance rate for our reporting Catholic schools is 100% for the 2011-2012 school year and has continuously ranged from 98%-100% annually.

Catholic Schools
98%

Public Schools
81.9%

Average graduation rates

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Every Catholic schoolteacher is actively involved in professional development programs. In addition to educational programs offered through the Diocese of Worcester, teachers take advantage of courses offered at area universities throughout the school year and through the summer. This becomes particularly important at a time when both new knowledge and advanced technology require teachers to keep pace with educational innovation.

PASTORAL INVOLVEMENT

Priests play a critical role in Catholic schools. They insure an active sacramental life for everyone connected to the school and can be counted upon to present authentic Catholic doctrine.

At a time of rampant materialism and secularism, families connected to Catholic schools are also invited to participate in the life of the parish. As children are prepared for the sacraments, pastors recognize the opportunity for re-evangelization and assist families desiring to reconnect to the parish.



SAVING WORCESTER COUNTY | Taxpayers dollars

Town/City	Total Students from Town/City	Cost per student by Town/City	Savings to Town/City from students choosing Catholic schools
Fitchburg	419	\$12,681	\$5,313,339
Gardner	196	\$11,310	\$2,216,760
Leominster	404	\$12,233	\$4,942,132
Milford	99	\$12,284	\$1,216,116
Millbury	114	\$13,444	\$1,532,616
Northborough	129	\$12,636	\$1,630,044
Shrewsbury	618	\$11,318	\$6,994,524
Southbridge	150	\$12,894	\$1,934,100
Uxbridge	123	\$12,074	\$1,485,102
Webster	330	\$12,876	\$4,249,080
Worcester	1,786	\$13,489	\$24,091,354
Other	2,607	\$12,476	\$32,524,932
Total Annual Taxpayers Savings			\$88,130,099

"For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."
- Matthew 6:21



Diocese of Worcester Catholic Schools Office

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