



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of
PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE

Catholic Schools

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



FROM THE BISHOP

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

Greetings in the Lord!

In a message to the National Catholic Educational Association in 1979, Pope St. John Paul II said, “Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others.”

Our Catholic schools provide a solid education with a strong focus on virtues-based formation, academic excellence, and a safe environment for all students. The 2021-2022 annual report gives a snapshot of the outstanding Catholic education our schools provide while recognizing that parents are the primary educators of their children.

We are blessed by our dedicated administrators and teachers. They are the backbone—and the heart—of our schools. With great love and skill, they awaken both the mind and souls of our beloved students.

One of my favorite things to do as a priest and bishop is visiting our schools throughout the diocese. It gives me great joy to converse with the faculty, staff, and students. Listening to students talk about how their teachers go the extra mile to help them advance academically, morally, and spiritually says a lot about our schools and gives me hope for the future of our Church. It is a tremendous honor for our administration to assist you in the education and formation of your children.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting our schools through prayer, volunteering, and continued financial assistance. May we strive to be good students and disciples of Christ the Teacher so that we may one day join him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

In Christ’s Peace,

Most Rev. William A. Wack, CSC
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE OF PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE,

Thank you for taking the time to read this annual report about our Catholic schools and early learning centers. As superintendent, it is my pleasure to share with you the successes of the past school year, made possible by our faculty, staff, administrators, and pastors. They all work tirelessly in the service of our Lord for the betterment of our students. This report will give you a feel for the incredible work done by the teams at each of our schools and centers. It is an honor for me to share their story with you.

Our Catholic schools exist for the sole purpose of leading families to Christ through a rigorous education where the Catholic Faith permeates all facets of what we do. We refer to this approach as Catholic immersion. By encountering Christ in all aspects of the student experience, our students grow in knowledge and personal relationship with Christ, aiming to be master communicators of the written and spoken word and possessing the ability to articulate and defend their faith once they graduate from our schools.

We hope to inspire others as we form future saints, instilling the hunger and tools in our students to be the best versions of themselves they can be.

We hope you enjoy our annual report, and we invite you to learn more about our Catholic schools and early learning centers by visiting our websites, social media platforms, and by attending campus events.

Yours in Christ,



Mike Juhas, Superintendent



**FROM THE
SUPERINTENDENT**

OUR MISSION

Filled with faith, hope, and love, the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee's Catholic schools and early learning centers seek to glorify God by challenging and supporting students as they strive to become joyful scholars and saints through a rigorous academic curriculum as well as complete immersion in the Catholic pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty.

A photograph of several children in white robes walking outdoors. One child in the foreground holds a large processional cross, while another holds a candle. The background shows trees and a building.

MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH

Catholic Immersion



**“The missionary disciple has first
of all a center, a point of reference,
which is the person of Jesus.”**

POPE FRANCIS





The purpose of Catholic education is to form students in a way that draws them closer to God and guides them along the path to becoming saints. We build a Catholic culture in our diocese through a philosophy called Catholic immersion. Just like learning another language, where immersion is the most effective way to become fluent, we immerse our students in the Catholic Faith in all aspects of their education, helping them to know Jesus and apply His teachings to their lives.

FORMATION THROUGH TRUTH, BEAUTY, AND GOODNESS

Our Catholic schools use Catholic curriculum standards to integrate the Catholic Faith into a rigorous academic program. By integrating Christ across the curriculum, students learn to appreciate truth, beauty, and goodness in their lessons and experience a Catholic worldview while developing critical thinking skills. Intercessory prayer teams intercede for each school, and pastors work closely with faculty and staff to enhance their faith lives.

ENCOUNTERING THE RISEN LORD AND BUILDING VIRTUE

At a time when only 31 percent of Catholics still believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist (Pew Research Center, 2019), we actively work to help students know Jesus and build habits of prayer. Our students have ample opportunities to encounter Christ through Mass, Eucharistic adoration, reconciliation, and prayer. Students learn about the virtues and works of mercy in their curriculum, applying them through service opportunities. This approach to social-emotional learning reinforces Gospel values and gives students the interpersonal skills and empathy necessary to be servant leaders and active participants in their faith. Families are supported by the schools and early learning centers as they grow in their domestic prayer routines.

MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP BY ARTICULATING AND DEFENDING THE FAITH

Our academic programs are designed to form master communicators of the written and spoken word. Coupled with a philosophy of Catholic immersion, these programs enable students to graduate from our Catholic schools equipped to articulate and defend their faith in the world. In a culture that stresses love of God and love of neighbor, students are naturally drawn to share their blessings from God with others and to invite them into a deeper relationship with Christ.



DID YOU KNOW?

Our high school Class of 2021 completed 32,783 service hours during their high school careers.

BISHOP WACK'S Pastoral Letter

In November 2021, Bishop Wack wrote a pastoral letter on evangelization. This letter covers the need for evangelization in our times and the importance of walking with others on their faith journey.

Our Catholic schools held teacher workshops on the letter and covered its contents with students. We noticed a renewed vigor for evangelization from faculty and a kindling of love for the faith in students. Our goal is to continue witnessing Christ to others within and outside of our community into the future.



Over the past school year, 26 students in our schools joined the Catholic Church.



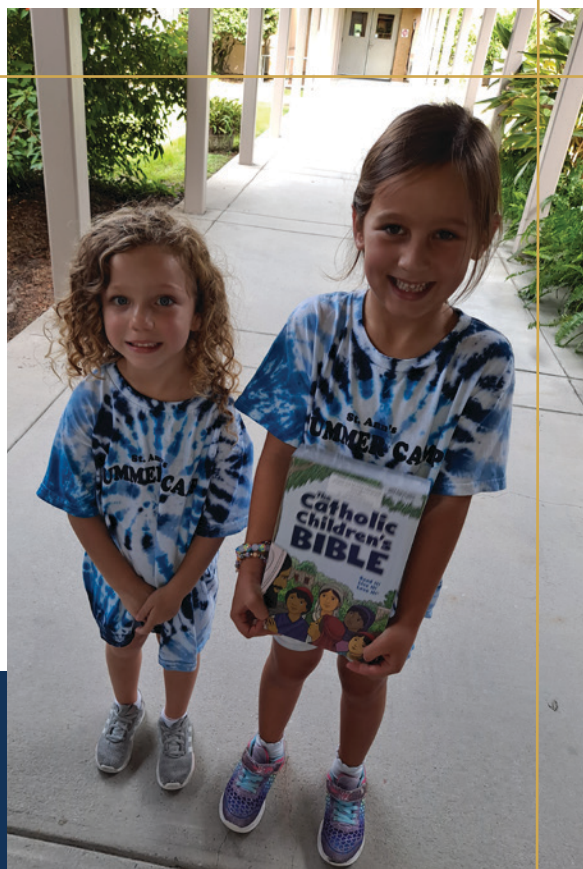
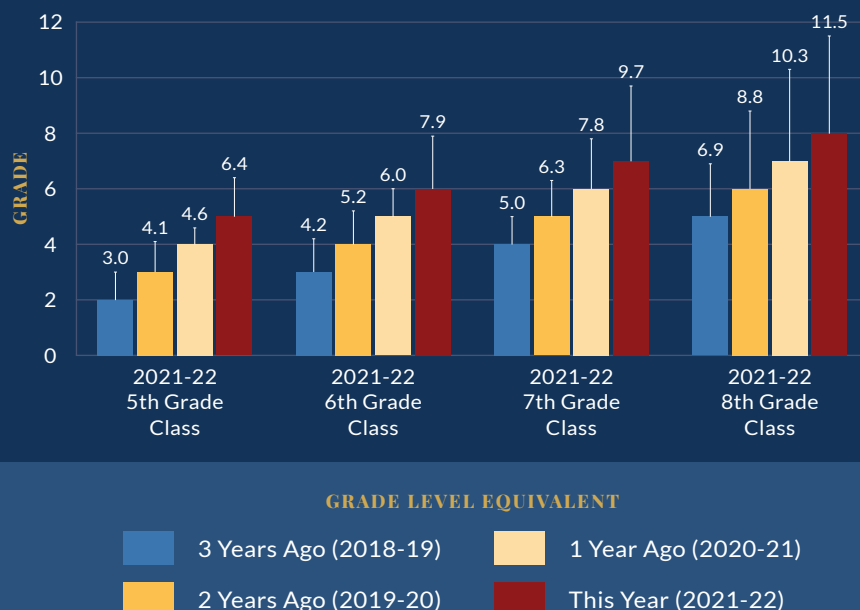
RECOVERING AFTER

COVID-19

In the aftermath of COVID-19 affecting schools on a grand scale, our diocesan schools worked on a plan with a medical advisory team to support on-campus learning in 2021-22. Our teachers went above and beyond the call of duty to address learning loss and to advance students in our curriculum.

In a time when nationally Catholic schools surpassed public schools in learning loss recovery, our Catholic schools addressed learning gaps and had many success stories. The following graphs show how our students fared over a four-year period.

Longitudinal Growth over Time on Terra Nova by Grade Equivalent



Scan this QR code to read Bishop Wack's Pastoral letter on the diocesan website.

PTDIOCESE.ORG/PASTORAL-LETTER

Our Schools and Programs



ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Holy Spirit Child
Development Academy

Little Flower Catholic School

Pensacola Catholic High
School and Mother Clelia
Morning Star High School

Sacred Heart Cathedral School

St. John the Evangelist Catholic School

St. Paul Catholic School

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

St. Ann Discovery School

OKALOOSA COUNTY

St. Mary Catholic School

WALTON COUNTY

St. Rita Preschool

BAY COUNTY

St. Bernadette Child
Development Academy

St. John Catholic Academy

LEON COUNTY

St. John Paul II Catholic High School

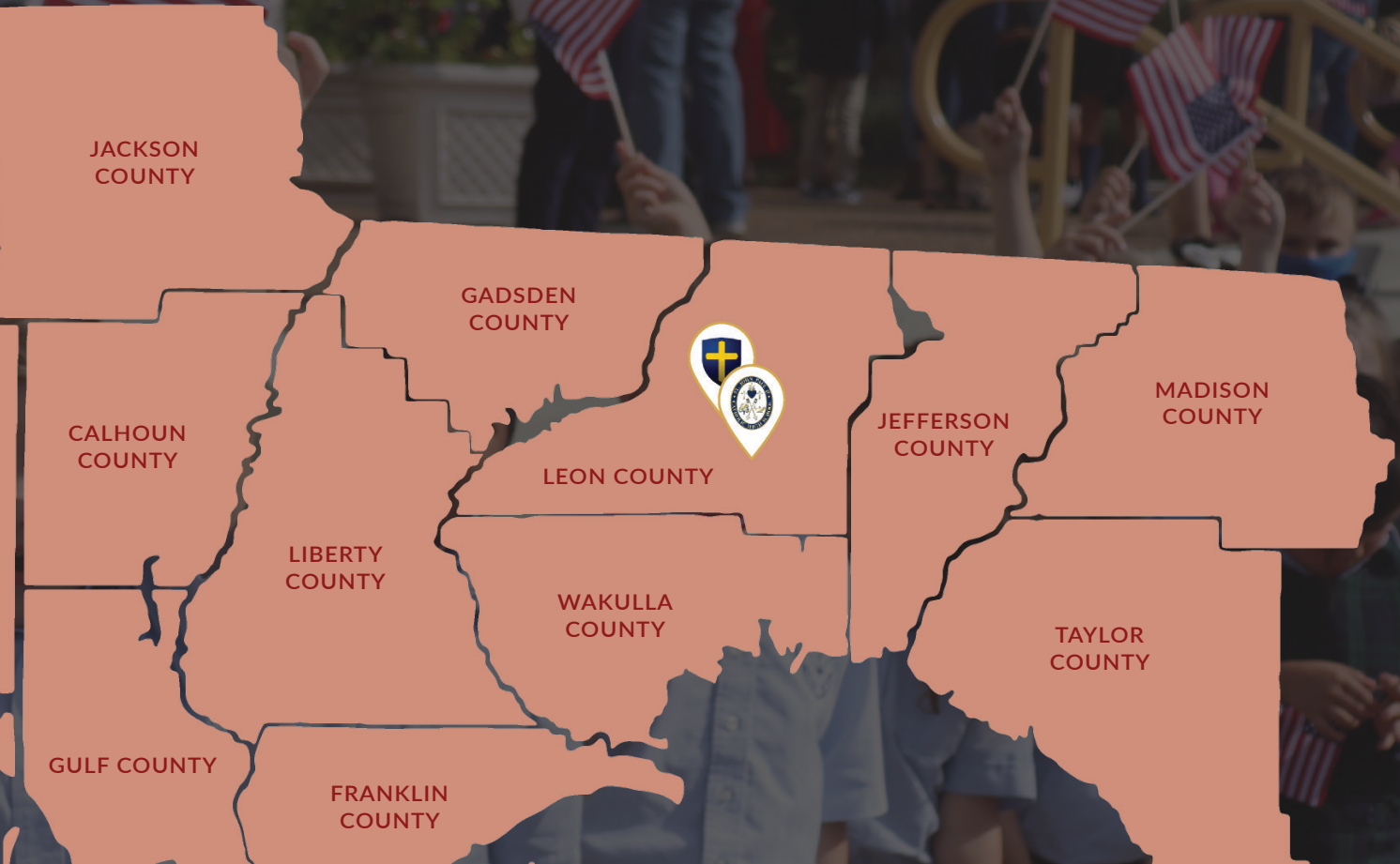
Trinity Catholic School

Mother Clelia Morning Star High School Graduates Its First Student

Mother Clelia celebrated its first student graduate in May 2022. The school continues to grow and works with special needs students' families on an individualized path to success.



Preschools



The Students We Serve

Our Catholic schools and early learning centers serve a diverse community of families from varying backgrounds, always with the goal of forming future saints. Teachers mentor our students in order to guide them toward achieving their full potential. We serve students from early childhood through twelfth grade. Our pupils thrive in a safe and loving environment that assists them in growing physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. As one of the largest ministries of our diocese, schools and early learning centers partner with our Bishop and pastors to support parents and guardians in the formation of their children, who are the next generation of the Church.

MUSTARD SEED AND FAMILY GRANTS

The Mustard Seed Grant is the outcome of a partnership between the Catholic Foundation of Northwest Florida and the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee's Office for Catholic Schools. This grant provides a one-time \$2,000 tuition assistance grant for 25 students in grades K-12 whose family is entering one of our diocesan Catholic schools for the first time. Multiple siblings may qualify in the same year.

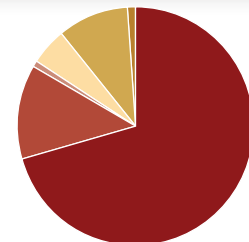
The Diocesan Office of Finance funds a family grant of \$1,000 for eligible families that have a student in one of our Catholic high schools and another student in one of our Catholic elementary schools.

68%

OF OUR STUDENT BODY IS CATHOLIC

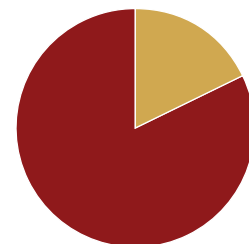
89%

SCHOOL CAPACITY IN 2021-22



DEMOGRAPHICS BY RACE

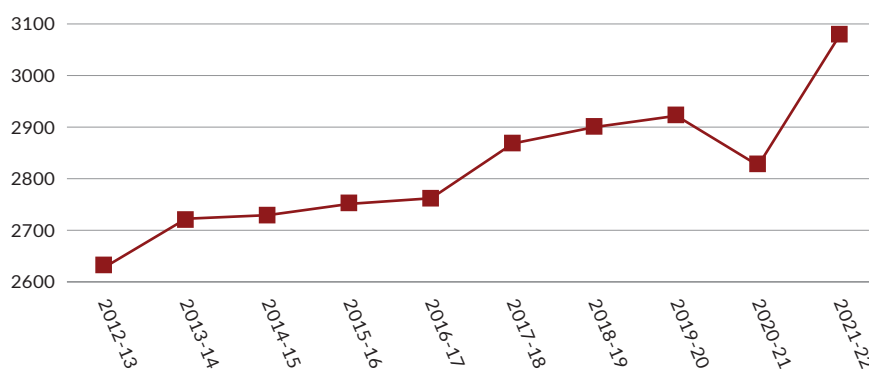
Caucasian	72%
Multiracial	13%
Native American/Native Alaskan	<1%
Asian	5%
African American	10%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<1%



DEMOGRAPHICS BY ETHNICITY

Hispanic	18%
Non-Hispanic	82%

PK-12 ENROLLMENT OVER TIME IN OUR SCHOOLS





STUDENT PARTICIPATION BY SEASON

Fall (flag, tackle, cheer, volleyball)

621

Winter (basketball)

577

Spring (soccer)

721



Catholic Youth Sports League

The Catholic Youth Sports League is a faith-based athletic venture of the Office for Catholic Schools that serves Pensacola students from our Catholic schools and other non-public schools in grades K-8. CYSL offered basketball, cheerleading, flag football, soccer, tackle football, track, and volleyball in 2021-22. This offered a much appreciated outlet for students as they dealt with the lingering stress of COVID-19, and we saw record numbers of participants as the students represented their schools and battled for the championship trophies.

While seeking excellence on the field or court, CYSL places the highest priority on sportsmanship and growing in faith through athletic competition and physical fitness. We do not play on Sundays to honor the Sabbath. We partner with Notre Dame's *Play Like a Champion Today* program to instill Catholic values and sportsmanship in our students, coaches, and parents.



FCC ADMINISTRATORS' CONFERENCE

In November 2021, the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee hosted a conference for Catholic school and preschool administrators from across the seven dioceses in Florida at the Wyndham Grand Bonnet Creek in Orlando. Over 400 people joined together for seminars, with Pensacola's own Quint Studer providing the keynote session and Tampa Jesuit's Jimmy Mitchell provided a plenary talk. Attendees used an app to interact with speakers and sponsors pre-conference for discussions on school topics, which continued throughout the event. The conference began with a rosary procession around the grounds. Attendees chose breakout sessions aligned to the accreditation benchmarks of their choice. Daily Mass, confession, and Eucharistic adoration were available during conference business hours. Attendees enjoyed the fellowship and learned from local, national, and international experts about Mission and Catholic Identity, Academic Excellence, Governance and Leadership, and Operational Vitality.



Our Faculty and Staff

The heartbeat of our Catholic schools and early learning centers exists within our faculty and staff. The impact they make in the lives of our families cannot be measured; they nurture our students and model Christ—the master teacher—in the classroom. They provide a safe classroom environment where students adopt a growth mindset and seek their full potential.

Teachers work hard to attain and maintain professional credentials, as well as catechetical certification. Our catechetical certification program provides a common formation in the Catholic Faith. All teachers actively participate in the program.



DID YOU KNOW?

If you or someone you know has an interest in teaching the Catholic Faith to the next generation, you can email teachersearch@ptdiocese.org to inquire about a faculty position for next school year.

75%

OF FACULTY IS CATHOLIC

82%

FACULTY RETENTION FROM LAST YEAR

“No Catholic school can be effective without dedicated Catholic teachers”

ST. JOHN PAUL II



ACCOLADES IN

Accreditation

Accreditation plays a vital role in validating the excellence of our Catholic schools. Our elementary schools are accredited through the Florida Catholic Conference (FCC), which uses the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools as its guiding principles. Our high schools are accredited through regional agencies.

Much preparation goes into an accreditation self-study and visit, as stakeholders team with staff to develop long-range plans for continuous improvement. The Office for Catholic Schools supports these efforts, which culminate in a visiting team from the outside inspecting all aspects of the school at the three-year and seven-year marks of the accreditation cycle.

ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL in Pensacola earned high marks during its FCC accreditation renewal, receiving recognition for its nurturing staff, inclusion of students in its Morning Star program, revamping of curriculum to align with mission, and fostering a Eucharistic community of faith among its students and families.



Academic Performance

Our Catholic schools teach a rigorous curriculum, building from fundamental skills, including critical thinking, writing, and math facts. Catholic immersion, an important part of our academic program, is the integration of the Catholic Faith into all subjects. We build in our students a desire to become lifelong learners with a disposition toward seeing the truth, beauty, and goodness in what they learn. We also provide them with the tools to be effective communicators of the written and spoken word, able to articulate and defend their faith.

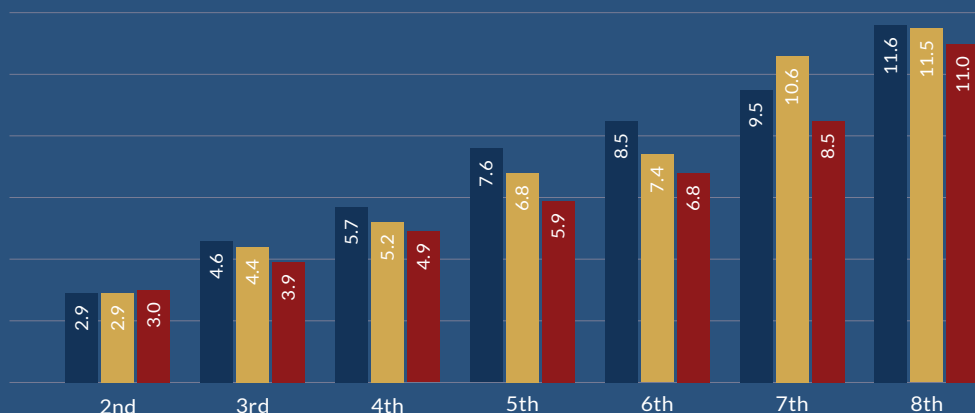
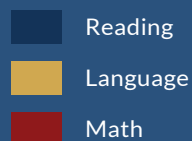
\$14,224,339 in Scholarships Offered

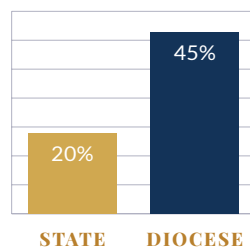
Average amount of scholarship dollars offered per graduate was **\$76,475** —almost double the average four-year tuition for Catholic high schools in our diocese. This investment in a Catholic education has helped many families with college costs through scholarships earned.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Our students consistently outperform the national average on standardized testing, and this past year's high school graduates collectively earned eight figures in scholarship money to colleges. Elementary students take the Terra Nova assessments, while high school students take the ACT and SAT. The graphs show the aggregate performance of our students by grade according to grade equivalent, which describes academic performance in terms of grade level and month. For example, if a third-grade student taking the Terra Nova at the 3/5 point of their school year scores a 4.2 on the third-grade reading test, this means the student scored as well as a fourth-grade student in the second month of the school year if given the same third-grade reading test.

Terra Nova Performance by Grade Equivalent





BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS

Forty-five percent of our eligible high school graduates were awarded Bright Futures Scholarships, well above the statewide average of 20 percent

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

Each year, our teachers participate in a training day called **DATA DAY**. The purpose of this professional development, done at each diocesan school with a common set of objectives, is to break into teams and study student performance on standardized testing, looking for patterns in data and finding areas where students need to grow. Areas of strengths and weaknesses are identified and strategies are formulated to address weaknesses at the class and student level. Data Day was particularly valuable this past year, where teachers developed plans to address learning loss due to COVID-19.

DID YOU KNOW?

Eight members of our high schools' graduating class of 2023 earned the prestigious National Merit Semifinalist distinction from the College Board!

100%

100% GRADUATION RATE

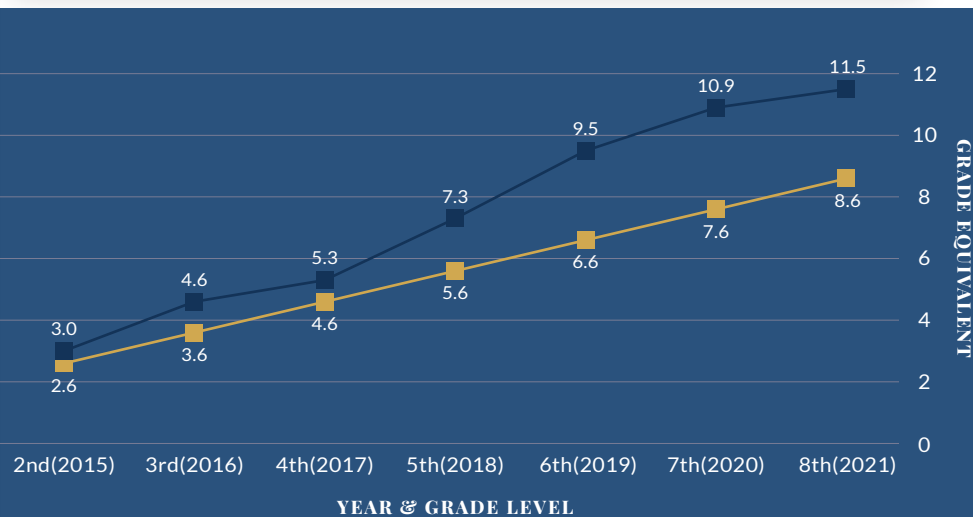
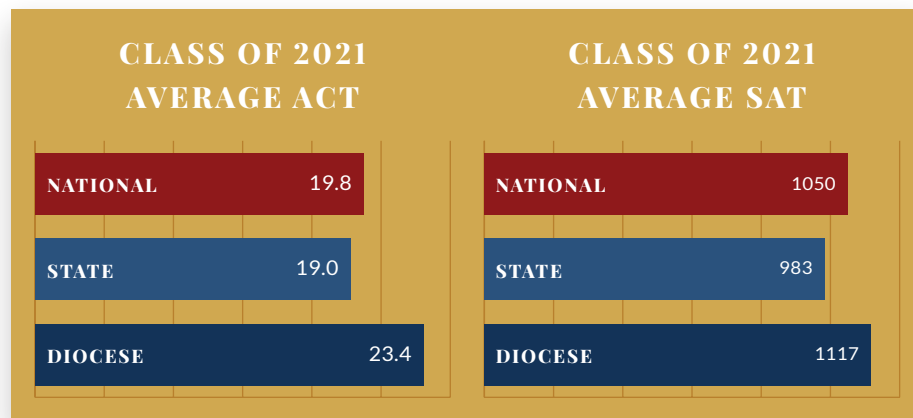
99%

ENTERING COLLEGE OR MILITARY

8th Grade Class of 2021 Performance over Time

Academic performance on the IOWA and Terra Nova tests over the past seven years for students who spent grades K-8 in our Catholic schools (per Terra Nova-Iowa linking study):

- Students who spent grades K-8 in our Catholic schools
- National Average



School Finances



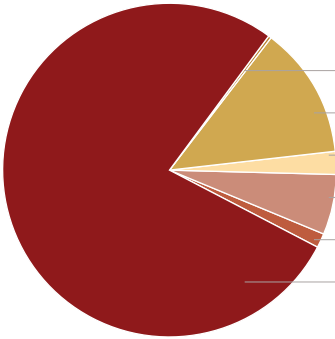
Our Catholic schools and early learning centers practice fiscal responsibility, working closely with their pastors, advisory councils, and the diocesan pastoral center. We always seek to be good stewards of our funding, using it to enhance the Christ-centered educational experience of our students.

As we seek to keep tuition as low as possible for our families while recognizing the fantastic job our faculty and staff perform, schools and early learning centers hold fundraisers and annual fund drives to bridge the gap between tuition and the cost to educate a student. School families are encouraged to apply for financial aid through Step Up for Students. Families may also apply for grants from their school or parish where applicable.



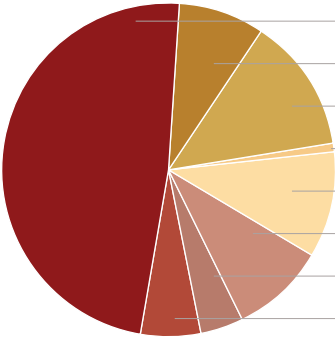


SOURCE OF FUNDS



Non Operating Income	\$78,603
Gross Donations, Fundraising, Grants	\$4,578,672
Net Subsidy	\$764,485
Program Income	\$2,091,996
Other Income	\$432,009
Net Tuition & Fees	\$27,636,051

USE OF FUNDS



Total Salaries	\$17,216,038
Construction & Equipment	\$2,975,413
Total Operational Expenses	\$4,701,090
Fundraising Expenses	\$259,971
Total Benefits	\$3,623,219
Total Facilities Expenses	\$3,321,852
Total Program Expenses	\$1,471,977
Surplus to Savings	\$2,012,256



TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS: \$35,581,816



SUPPORTING

Catholic Schools

HOW CAN I HELP?

PROMOTING

Word of mouth is the most powerful form of marketing a school could have. Encouraging families and friends to explore the possibility of Catholic education for their child could change a life forever.

Please share this information with families you know who would benefit from Catholic education.

DID YOU KNOW?

Dependent children of law enforcement officers and reservists or active duty military can qualify for a tax credit scholarship!

TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

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



PRAYING

Lifting up our Catholic schools and early learning centers 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. Contact schools@ptdiocese.org if you would like more information about joining an intercessory prayer team.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering at a Catholic school is yet another way to make a difference and advance the mission of our Catholic schools and early learning centers. 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, our tuition is lower than the cost to educate a child, creating a "tuition gap."

Partnering with a Catholic school through its annual fund drive, tuition assistance fund, or through 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.



—TOTAL COST TO EDUCATE A CHILD—





Scholarship Opportunities

There are scholarship programs in the state of Florida which help make Catholic education affordable for a greater number of families.

2021-2022 INCOME GUIDELINES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Household Size	Annual Household Gross Income Cap
2	\$73,240
3	\$92,120
4	\$111,000
5	\$129,880
6	\$148,760
7	\$167,640
8	\$186,520
9	\$205,400
10	\$224,280
11	\$243,160
12	\$262,040
13	\$280,920

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR K-12 STUDENTS TO ATTEND A PRIVATE SCHOOL

The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO) and the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship Program offer scholarships worth, on average, \$7,700 and cover the cost of private school tuition and fees, books, and more. Families can qualify based on household income. For example, a family of four could have an income of nearly \$111,000 annually and receive scholarships for their children. Dependent children of a law enforcement officer, reservist or an active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces, children currently in foster or out-of-home care, and siblings of students participating in the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities also qualify.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES

The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA) is worth, on average, almost \$10,000 and covers the cost of private school tuition, instructional materials, home education, tutoring and more. Students who are 3 years old to high school graduation or age 22 (whichever comes first) and have one of 23 qualifying diagnoses including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, spina bifida, and emotional, behavioral or intellectual disabilities are eligible.



Scan the QR code or go to ptdiocese.org/scholarships to learn more. For students who do not qualify for one of the full tuition scholarships, each school offers a limited amount of need-based financial aid grants. Please contact your school's principal to learn more.



2021-22 DIOCESAN SCHOOLS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Shawn Salamida, Chair
Greg Fayard
Chez Filippini
Fr. Doug Halsema

Leslie Henderson
Karen Manning
Fr. Kevin McQuone
Dr. Will Simmons

Elizabeth Snow
Bruce Watson
Mike Juhas, ex officio

Mike Juhas
*Superintendent of
Catholic Schools*

Jane Rhedin
Administrative Assistant

Donna Bass
*Certification and
International Students*

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CYSL Director

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