



A CATHOLIC EDUCATION WE TEACH MORE

TRUTH, BEAUTY AND GOODNESS

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE CHARGED TO “TEACH MORE” BY SHOWING HOW ALL LEARNING FLOWS FROM — AND RELATES TO — OUR CREATOR. THIS GIVES OUR TEACHING DEEPER MEANING AND PURPOSE THAN SIMPLY THE CONTENT ITSELF.

David Spesia, director of New Evangelization and Lay Formation, Diocese of Joliet

“I love the reminder that all truth, beauty and goodness we experience in daily life reflect God’s Truth, Beauty and Goodness; St. Bonaventure called this the “vestiges” or “traces” of God’s presence.”

Based on this, all teachers are charged with incorporating an aspect of truth, beauty or goodness into their lesson plans. The chart from the Newman Institute (to the right) illustrates the traits of truth, beauty and goodness — all of which are incorporated into our curriculum.

Pope Francis

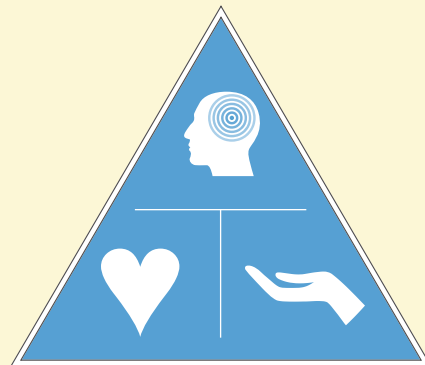
“The mission of Catholic schools and teachers is to develop understanding of all that is true, good and beautiful.”



TRUTH

MIND IN ACCORD WITH REALITY

Head • Knowing • Cognitive



BEAUTY

UNITY, HARMONY,
PROPORTION AND
RADIANCE

Heart • Loving • Affective

GOODNESS

PERFECTION OF BEING;
FULFILLMENT
OF PURPOSE;
LIFE OF VIRTUE

Hands • Serving • Behavioral

STEWARDS

OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION



The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon

ON WHY CATHOLIC EDUCATION IS SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT AND BETTER

Who can live without Truth, Beauty and Goodness? As far back to the ancient Greeks, human beings understood that these three realities, called transcendentals, go beyond the limitations of place and time. As our young people search for happiness and meaning in their lives, the transcendentals teach us about the deepest desires of the human heart. Truth, beauty and goodness are pathways to faith and encounter with God Himself. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#27) explains, “The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to Himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.”

As we look for more effective ways to evangelize, the transcendentals remind us about how to draw people to Christ, each in a personal way. In your personal faith journeys, an excellent book may have provided a turning point. For others, conversion came through the contemplation of beauty in a painting, sculpture, literature or music. Some find the attractive goodness of holy men and women irresistible, including saints like Pope John

Paul II, Teresa of Kolkata or the recently beatified Solanus Casey.

To a group of students and teachers Pope Francis said, “I love school because it educates us in the true, the good and the beautiful.” The Holy Father understands that truth, beauty and goodness are the three great paths by which we ascend to God. Our Catholic schools, centered on Christ who is Truth, Beauty and Goodness incarnate, serve as the trusted guides needed to reach the divine summit. At a time when the absence of virtue is so commonplace in our modern world, our Catholic schools could not be more important places where truth is taught, beauty is celebrated and goodness is lived. As the Holy Father reminds us, “A school’s mission is to develop the sense of the true, the sense of the good and the sense of the beautiful.”



Rev. John Belmonte, S.J., Ph.D.,
Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools

GOD’S TRUTH, BEAUTY AND GOODNESS REVEALED IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

In every school, the curriculum carries the mission. Curriculum is the heart of our work as Catholic school educators. In recent years, Catholic school curricula have benefited from the standards-based reform movement in education with one exception — the notable absence of rigorous standards rooted and grounded in our Catholic tradition. The new *Curricular Plan for Catholic Schools* created for our diocesan schools seeks to address that absence.

Led by the Catholic Schools Office, our elementary school principals and teachers consulted and collaborated on the plan for almost two years. They helped to integrate into our previous diocesan standards the new Catholic Curricular Standards produced by the Cardinal Newman Society. Inspired by church documents and based on our Catholic intellectual tradition, the *Curricular Plan for Catholic Schools* emphasizes what is uniquely Catholic about each curricular subject matter.

This fall every elementary school teacher in the diocese received a copy of the new plan. Implementation is now underway. Lesson plans will connect each subject matter to the transcendentals of Truth, Beauty and Goodness. Report cards will feature descriptors reflective of Catholic standards. Diocesan-wide and local level

professional development workshops for teachers will emphasize what is uniquely Catholic about our curriculum. School leadership, diocesan and local, will monitor progress across the diocese through school visits and classroom observations.

In countless ways, our Catholic schools seek to assist parents in forming their children in the image of Christ. This curricular plan represents a renewed commitment to excellence in every classroom by school leaders and teachers and the flourishing of a vibrant Catholic school culture on every campus. Pope Francis captured what we hope our students and families will gain from their Catholic education when he said, “True education makes us love life, and it opens us to the fullness of life!”



TRUTH



ACCORDING TO ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, A SIMPLE DEFINITION OF TRUTH IS “THE CORRESPONDENCE OF MIND TO REALITY.”

In other words, it involves our head and cognitive knowledge of what is real when our mind is in accord with reality.

For students in our Catholic schools, Christ is the invisible teacher in every classroom. Our students are taught to seek the truth of the Gospel. As a result, they learn more, achieve ahead of their peers, study with great teachers and belong to something bigger.

Pope Saint John Paul II

“Human beings can grasp the truth of things, and, in grasping the truth, can know their duties to God, to themselves and to their neighbors.”

◆ LEARN MORE

- All of our schools have SMART Boards, which enable students and teachers to engage in technology while learning various lessons that incorporate truth, beauty or goodness.
- The majority of our schools have access to Chromebooks, and some have mobile computer labs that travel from classroom to classroom.
- Our 46 elementary schools and one diocesan-sponsored high school were accredited by AdvancED, the largest accreditation agency in the world. In regard to technology, our schools scored above the international norm.



SMART Board, Immaculate Conception, Morris

CATEGORY	DIocese OF JOLIET SCORE	ILLINOIS AVERAGE	INTERNATIONAL NETWORK AVERAGE
Digital Learning	2.18	1.75	1.89



Joliet Catholic Academy, Joliet



St. Mary of Gostyn, Downers Grove

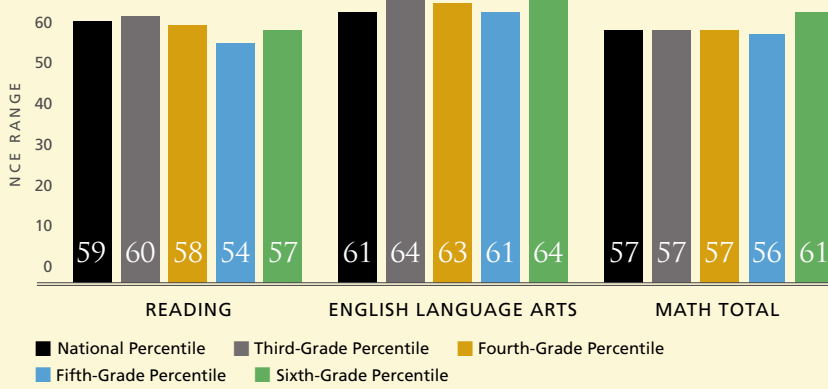


TRUTH

ACHIEVE AHEAD OF YOUR PEERS

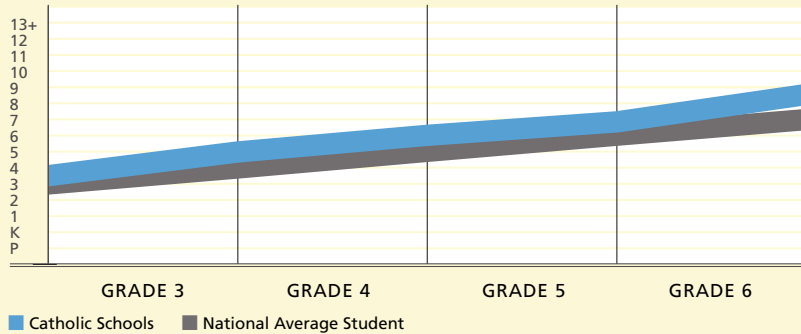
MEAN PERCENTILE FOR STUDENTS IN THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Our students score above the national average in every subject area compared to the national norms.



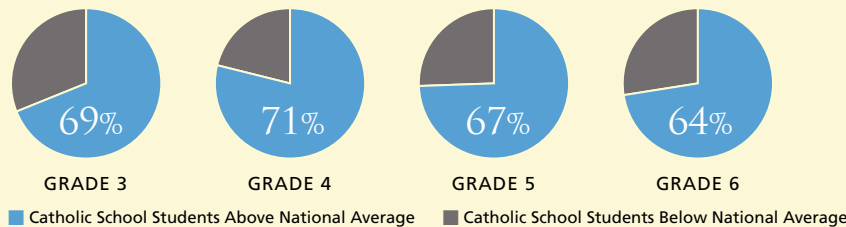
GROWTH ACHIEVEMENT

Our students score above the national average in growth achievement. The black line represents growth in achievement for Catholic school students versus the gray line, which represents growth for the average student in the nation.



HIGHER SCORES OVER NATIONAL AVERAGE

Our students score above the national average in grades 3–6.



St. Jude, Joliet

St. Joseph, Downers Grove



2016–2017 Core Values of Catholic Education Recipients

STUDY WITH GREAT TEACHERS

The Fourth Annual *Core Values of Catholic Education Faculty Awards* were presented to six elementary school teachers from the Diocese of Joliet. The award was given to the teachers who best embody the core values of Catholic education. These values include incorporating faith into the classroom, balancing challenging courses with a nurturing environment, collaborating with families, holding each other to a higher standard and planning for the future of Catholic education.

THE FOLLOWING TEACHERS RECEIVED THIS HONOR:

- Carna Tarico
Kindergarten, St. Raphael, Naperville
- Kate Sagat
Second Grade, St. Pius X, Lombard
- Jessica Contreras
Jr. High Math, St. Paul the Apostle, Joliet
- Celeste Jay
Jr. High Science, St. Paul the Apostle, Joliet
- Audrey Krueger
Jr. High Religion, St. James the Apostle, Glen Ellyn
- Margaret Boler
Jr. High Language Arts/Reading, St. Matthew, Glendale

Rev. John Belmonte, S.J., Ph.D.,
Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools

“Our core Catholic values unite us from the school office to the farthest corners of the playground, to the science labs to the lunch line and to the classroom. This is who we are and why we are here.”

✦ BELONG TO SOMETHING BIGGER

Students pray throughout their days, so that they can be committed to moral and ethical values of the Gospel and open themselves up to God's presence. This enables them to become attuned to God's existence in the ups and downs of life — letting Him be with them in each moment of their days.



380,000

Number of hours of religious instruction per year.*

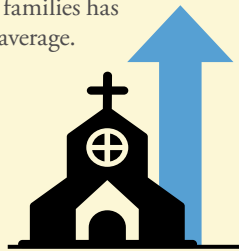
*Each clock represents 50,000 hours.

WEEKLY MASS ATTENDANCE

In 2013 the Diocese of Joliet Catholic Schools Office launched an effort to encourage Catholic grade school families to take their children to Sunday Mass. Since this effort was launched, Mass attendance by Catholic grade school families has increased 17 percent, double the diocesan average.



Confession at St. Petronille, Glen Ellyn



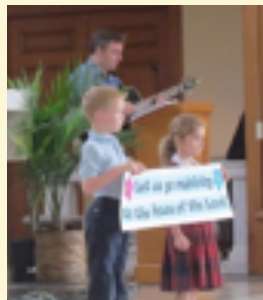
17%

increase in Mass attendance

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE

The teachers and principal remind the students to attend Mass over the weekend. On Fridays, the principal ended announcements with "See you at Mass on Sunday." Additionally, the principal always made a point of mentioning when she saw her students at Mass. Lastly, the school has a Pack the Pew Mass once a month where students wear their uniforms and some participate in the Mass.

Adoration at St. Jude, Joliet



Mass at St. Petronille, Glen Ellyn



"Called By Name" Vocations and Discipleship Conference

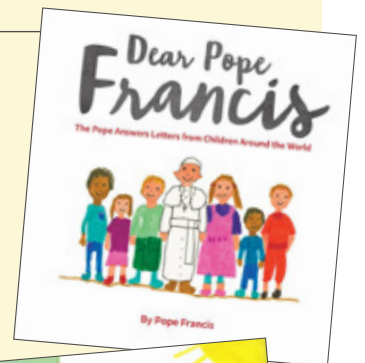


"CALLED BY NAME" VOCATIONS AND DISCIPLESHIP CONFERENCE

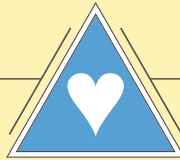
Religious teachers accompanied approximately 2,050 seventh and eighth graders from 45 elementary Catholic schools to the "Called By Name" *Vocations and Discipleship Conference* to hear engaging talks, along with music, Eucharistic adoration, confession, Catholic trivia and a vocations fair attended by 26 religious communities.

ON RETREAT WITH POPE FRANCIS

Several diocesan grade school teachers worked tirelessly with Rev. John Belmonte, S.J., Ph.D., Diocese of Joliet superintendent, to develop a diocesan-wide devotional program. This annual event spanned 15 weeks and included prayer exercises, in-class projects and catechesis. For the 2016–2017 school year, the devotional project was titled *On Retreat with Pope Francis*. Students wrote letters to Pope Francis in response to this book, *Dear Pope Francis*. Father Belmonte sent the letters to the Pope.



BEAUTY



BEAUTY EVOKES WONDER, AND THIS IS THE FOUNDATION OF LEARNING.

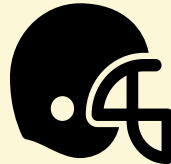
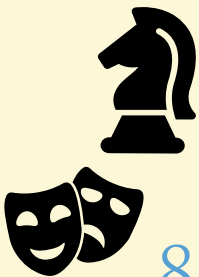
According to David Hart, author of *The Beauty of the Infinite: The Aesthetics of Christian Truth*, "Beauty pleases not only the eye and the ear, but also intellect in a celebration of integrity of our body and soul. It can be seen as a sign of God's goodness."

When students open themselves up to the beauty surrounding them, they are united in harmony and realize the proportion of the world in which they live. By appreciating beauty, our students have many opportunities to discover their talents and are treated as individuals based on their many interests.

DISCOVER YOUR TALENTS

Pope Francis

"Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!"



82%

of our elementary students

86%

of our high schoolers

participate in at least one extracurricular activity



Joliet Catholic Academy, Joliet



Providence Catholic High School, New Lenox



Visitation, Elmhurst



Joliet Catholic Academy, Joliet

{ SAMPLE OF ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE }

ACADEMIC CONTESTS
MATH CLUB
CHESS CLUB
FINE ARTS
YEARBOOK

DRAMA
BAND
WRITING CLUB
DANCE
CHEERLEADING
SCOUTS

ECOLOGY CLUB
BASKETBALL
VOLLEYBALL
TRACK AND FIELD
CROSS-COUNTRY

BE TREATED AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Parent from St. Dennis, Lockport

"In 5th grade, my son was very nervous about entering jr. high. His teacher made sure a few of his friends were in the same 6th-grade homeroom so that he would be comfortable making the transition. His teacher's extra effort helped him feel more secure about jr. high, and I am very thankful."

Left to right:

St. Mary of Gostyn, Downers Grove

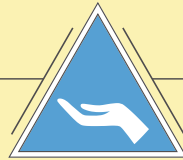
Notre Dame, Clarendon Hills

Providence Catholic High School, New Lenox

St. Petronille, Glen Ellyn



GOODNESS



THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES US THAT THE GOAL OF CATHOLIC EDUCATORS IS TO HELP OUR STUDENTS BECOME GOOD PEOPLE.

Among the qualities that we seek to instill are wisdom, faithfulness and virtue. Virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do good.

By helping and treating others with respect — both in school and in the community — our students have a fulfillment of purpose and learn to live a life of virtue.



Montini High School, Lombard



110,629

service hours provided by Diocese of Joliet high school students*



St. Francis High School, Wheaton



65,400

service hours provided by Diocese of Joliet elementary school students*

*Each clock represents 50,000 hours.



Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst



St. Petronille, Glen Ellyn

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

	CONSOLIDATED ACTUAL	PER STUDENT
Investment in Catholic Education	\$72,892,723	\$6,366
REVENUE SOURCES		
Tuition & Fees	\$50,782,899	\$4,435
Local Fundraising	\$5,755,355	\$503
Parish Investment	\$13,087,708	\$1,143
Other Revenue	\$2,853,915	\$249
TOTAL	\$72,479,877	\$6,330

Total = tuition and fees; fundraising, parish involvement, other revenue

THE BENEFITS OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

2016-2017



Our gifted teachers help students excel because we not only guide them along their faith journey, but we also prepare them well academically. The numbers prove the results.



\$159
MILLION

College scholarships
offered to our seniors in
the Class of 2016



\$2,173,088

Scholarships and grants awarded
to 1,648 elementary students in
the Diocese of Joliet (DOJ)

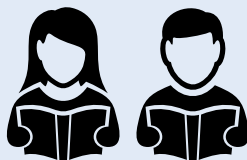
Average scholarship equals:
\$1,319

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

13,887
Students

886
Teachers

1:15
Average elementary class size

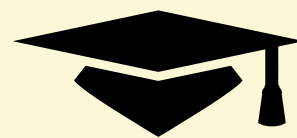


HIGH SCHOOLS

5,112
Students

383
Teachers

1:13
Average high school class size



100%

4-year Graduation Rate
at DOJ High Schools

87%

4-year Graduation Rate
at Illinois Public High Schools



88%

of DOJ High School graduates
successfully pursue higher education



Average ACT in
Joliet Diocese Schools



Average ACT in
Illinois Public Schools