



DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City

Catholic Schools Office Newsletter

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS

2022-2023



Education is a fundamental corporal work of mercy. Catholic Schools are a center where students and teachers, imbued with the words of truth, will search for the wisdom that guides the Christian life and strive wholehearted to stand by Christ as their teacher. ~ Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

**THEN I HEARD
THE VOICE
OF THE LORD
SAYING,
“WHOM
SHALL I
SEND? AND
WHO WILL
GO FOR US?”
AND I SAID,
“HERE I AM.
SEND ME!”
ISAIAH 6:8**

In my second full school year as superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Jefferson City, I continue to be grateful for the vision and leadership of Bishop McKnight, as well as humbled and blessed by the faculty, staff, administrators, parents — and especially students — who continue to listen to God's voice and answer, "Send me!"

In a time when so much of the world seems lost in darkness, these children of God are Christ's light to us all. In this time of renewal after the chaos of the last two years, a perfect opportunity exists to revitalize our faith as well as our commitment to our parishes and schools, and renew and deepen our commitment to the spirituality of stewardship. As stewards committed to creating schools that are centers of charity and mercy, we turn away from the noise and contention of society to form students who are thoughtful, generous and charitable citizens of this world, prepared to be welcomed by God into the next. All of us involved in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Jefferson City are grateful to serve.

We ask for your prayers and continued support as we place our students and ourselves in God's care — trusting Him, and answering Him, "Send me!" In the following pages, we aim to provide you information, data and HOPE! The value of Catholic education in the Diocese of Jefferson City is immeasurable — it touches eternity! Blessings!

Erin Vader

Erin Vader, Ed.D.
Superintendent

CENTERED IN FAITH

The faith-centered environment of our schools is at the heart of who we are and sets us apart from other educational institutions. Through a solid, religious curriculum integrated into all parts of our school day and a focus on service to others, our students gain a deep understanding of our Catholic faith and their role as disciples of Christ. Their relationship with Jesus — and with one another — grows through daily prayer, regular participation in the Mass, preparation for the Sacraments, service opportunities, spiritual retreats and more.

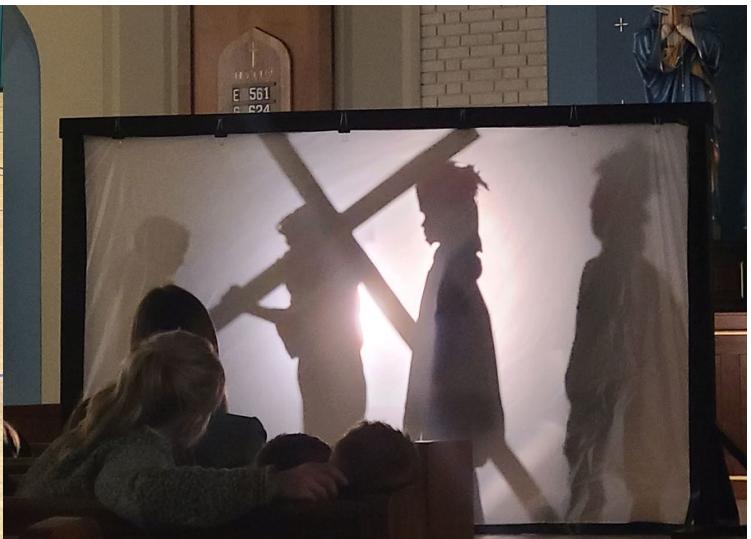
There is no greater role our schools play than that of preparing the next generation of Catholic Christians for their roles in the Church and the world.



THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PROVIDES SCHOOLS WITH AN ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF CHILD/YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR 3RD, 8TH AND 11TH GRADES

IN THE DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY:

- **3RD GRADERS SCORED 5% ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE**
- **8TH GRADERS SCORED 10% ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE**
- **11TH GRADERS SCORED 10% ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE**



THE POWER OF STEWARDSHIP

As we move into the second year of our **Diocesan Stewardship Renewal**, it is important to remember our Catholic school families have benefited from stewardship from the very beginning, when Bishop McAuliffe made the brave decision to move the Diocese of Jefferson City in that direction.

For over 30 years, the parish elementary schools have been supported by the families of the parish, allowing parish parents to receive an exceptional, faith-based education for their children at little cost to the students' family.

Stewardship Renewal relies on all of us rejuvenating our commitment to support our parish communities (and, by extension, our schools) through our prayers, our participation and our giving.

By making these commitments, we can ensure our schools stay strong and are able to serve our students and our Church for generations to come.



Stewardship
GROWING OUR FAITH

The four pillars of stewardship are: Hospitality, Prayer, Formation and Service. These pillars invite parishioners to experience, witness and live the stewardship way of life in response to their baptismal call to discipleship. Each baptized person is called to give of time, talent and treasure to strengthen these four pillars that support your parish community.



HOW WE COMPARE

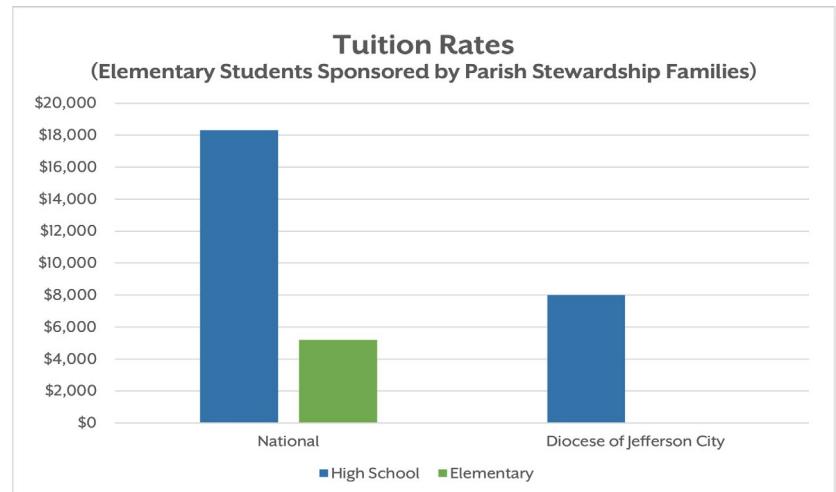
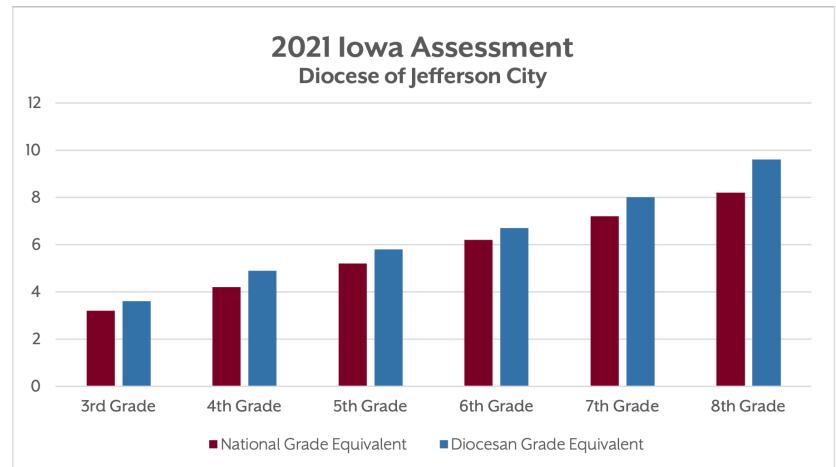
STATISTICS

Diocese of Jefferson City

- ◆ 37 elementary and 3 high schools
- ◆ Enrollment increased for 2021-2022 school year
- ◆ Ranked 74th out of 175 dioceses in enrollment
- ◆ One of only 2 stewardship dioceses in the US
- ◆ 99% acceptance rate into higher education of choice
- ◆ 99% graduation rate (vs. 86% nationally)
- ◆ ACT and SAT scores higher than national average
- ◆ Seniors received over \$85,000 in scholarships on average
- ◆ Students, faculty, and staff complete thousands of service hours annually

Nationally

- ◆ Missouri is ranked 10th nationally for Catholic school enrollment
- ◆ US Catholic schools save the public school system over \$22.7 billion a year



SPOTLIGHT ON:

LEARNING DIFFERENCES

During the 2021-2022 school year, the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) began an Accommodations Committee to examine the needs of our students who face learning differences. As part of the committee's work, we surveyed our current school parents and teachers to find out what concerns they have and what resources are needed. For the coming school year, this committee — made up of administrators, teachers, parents and experts — will examine what the CSO can provide diocesan-wide.



LEARNING GROWTH

Administrators continued their work on updating and improving what and how our students learn. The diocesan Curriculum Committee completed updates to the diocesan science curriculum; it was reviewed and approved by a committee of teachers, administrators and pastors. The science curriculum joins the recently updated religion, math and language arts curriculum. Seven Missouri Nonpublic School Accreditation Association visits were completed, ensuring our schools are meeting all appropriate benchmarks. Our October standardized test scores continued to show strong growth, with all grade levels scoring above grade level on average. By 8th grade, our students are scoring well over a grade level above the national average.



LEARNING TOGETHER



St. Nicholas Academy partners with under-resourced families and St. Peter Interparish School in Jefferson City to break the cycle of poverty for children. St. Nicholas Academy works with families to give their sons the best opportunity possible to succeed in school and life, to reach their God-given potential and become the best men they can possibly be.

Inspired by Christ's love for all, we dedicate our resources to helping boys grow physically, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually, providing the following resources free of charge:

- A safe, loving and supportive living and learning experience at the Academy
- A quality education at St. Peter Interparish School
- A year-round program with summer activities that provide many growth-filled experiences

MOVING FORWARD

The Catholic Schools Office's annual plan is based around the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, A Steward's Journey, and the Pillars of Stewardship.

In response to the Pastoral Plan's goal of strengthening co-responsibility, the Catholic Schools Office's plan is focused on providing administrators opportunities to grow in leadership and use their God-given talents. Each administrator is a member of a diocesan committee, participates in an annual leadership conference and is provided support in continuing their professional growth.



In response to the goal of strengthening charity and mercy, our schools are continuing to work with Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri. A partnership with Catholic Charities provides schools with a counseling director who offers support and resources to meet school needs. Additionally, diocesan committees will focus on meeting student learning needs, ensuring student safety and growing service opportunities within our Catholic school community.

In response to the goal of strengthening participation, the Catholic Schools Office is working with the diocesan Stewardship Office to support stewardship renewal and continuing to form our students in the spirituality of stewardship. This includes incorporating the pillars of stewardship in our curriculum and in our every day activities in the school and in the school community.

THANK YOU



Thank you to all our pastors, administrators, teachers, staff, volunteers, parishioners and supporters. Thank you to those who give to support our schools through their time, talent and treasure. We are especially grateful to those who have given to the Diocesan Excellence in Education Fund (DEEF), which helps schools provide competitive salaries to their educators. Thank you to the donors who provided funding for a bonus to administrators, faculty and staff in honor of National Catholic Schools Week.

To all those at the Chancery who help the CSO every day: Msgr. Robert Kurwicki, Ben Roodhouse, Cheryl Hertfelder, Connie Schepers, Denise Barnes, Gala Wolfmeier, Helen Osman, Jake Seifert, Fr. Jason Doke, Jay Nies, Karen Burton, Kathy Smith, Kelly Martin, Maureen Quinn, Trish Lutz, Deacon Joe Braddock, Fr. Stephen Jones, and Vicki McElwaine.

A very special thanks to Paula Glynn for all she does for all of us.

An extra special thank you to Bishop McKnight for his support and vision.

And a blessing to all our students — past, present and future: May the Sacred Heart of Jesus, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, guide you all of your days.

Please visit the Catholic Schools Office webpage at diojeffcity.org/school-office/ for information on curriculum, policies, future plans and contact information.

The Catholic Schools Office supports our school communities in our mission to educate, guide and empower students to be faith-filled stewards of God's gifts in service to one another.