



DIOCESE OF PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE
OFFICE *for* CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Catholic Schools

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



**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.**





'Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the Lord! It is a pleasure once again to present to you this Annual Report from the Office for Catholic Schools. It is vitally important to provide as much information as we can so that we can mark our progress and plan for the future. You will see that God is doing great things in and through our Catholic schools.

All schools teach mathematics, science, history, and the arts, and our Catholic schools do that as well as—or better than—anyone. A Catholic school, on the other hand, does this while attempting to form the conscience and heart of the child.

Our goal is not only academic achievement and honors; it is to prepare our young people to know, love, and serve God. It is a great honor for all of us to assist you in the education and formation of your children.

Even in the midst of some of the most challenging times for our society, our schools have continued to operate, grow, and thrive. Current enrollment is at a 15-year high, and the future looks quite promising.

Thank you for all that you do to support our schools with your prayers and your 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 our schools and centers, made possible by our faculty/staff, administrators, and pastors. In the face of COVID-19, our schools and centers all rose to the challenge. 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 these stories with you.

Our Catholic schools exist for the sole purpose of leading families to Christ through a top-notch education where the Catholic Faith permeates all facets of what we do. We refer to this approach as Catholic immersion. We work tirelessly with parents to build in our students a knowledge of and a personal relationship with Christ, so that they are master communicators of the written and spoken word, possessing the ability to articulate and defend their faith once they graduate from our schools.

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

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

Yours in Christ,

Mike Juhas, Superintendent





'Did you know?'

Our high school Class of 2021 completed **32,988 service hours** during their high school careers.

**“The Church
community o**

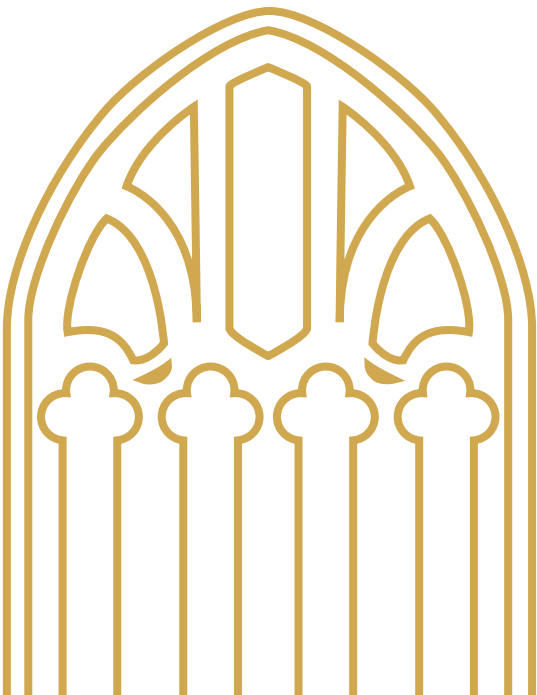
MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH

Catholic Immersion

The purpose of Catholic education is to educate 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 pray for each school, and pastors work closely with faculty/staff to enhance their faith life.





which goes forth is a
f missionary disciples.”

Pope Francis

ENCOUNTERING THE RISEN LORD AND BUILDING VIRTUE

n. At a time when only 31% 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 school cultures that stress 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.

Consecration to St Joseph



On April 30, 2021, Bishop Wack consecrated our Catholic schools to St. Joseph. The Mass and consecration were held at Saint Thomas More Parish in Pensacola, with a selection of students attending and students participating in their classrooms via broadcast. Schools taught lessons about devotion to St. Joseph during the weeks leading up to the consecration.





TEACHING AND LEARNING DURING COVID-19

For the 2020–21 school year, administrators of schools and early learning centers from across the diocese partnered with the Office for Catholic Schools and the Diocesan Medical Advisory Team to create a **Return to Campus Plan**. This plan continues to ensure that students and faculty encounter a safe environment while having interpersonal needs met through instructional quality and social interactions with peers. The plan provides specific directions to faculty, staff, and families, and it accommodates students who need to quarantine.

Faculty and staff rose to the occasion and delivered high quality lessons while balancing the needs of students both in class and at home. Many hours were spent connecting with families virtually, and school counselors worked across school boundaries to provide emotional support for students coping with these unprecedented challenges. Students adapted well to the protocols and progressed through the curriculum for a successful school year. Having a unique window into classroom instruction, parents praised the high quality of education their students received, thereby encouraging faculty and staff to continue supporting the mission of Catholic education in their careers.

Our Schools and Pro



A New Catholic High School in Pensacola

In the 2020–21 school year, Mother Clelia Morning Star High School was founded by the diocese. Serving students in grades 9–12 with special needs, it offers a Catholic education to students who otherwise would not have the opportunity, along with inclusion experiences in the Pensacola Catholic High community. These interactions greatly benefit both schools. Director Amanda Jansen and her team opened the school to ten students in its first year. Enrollment has already doubled as we enter 2021–22.



Preschools



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, Pensacola
 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, Panama City

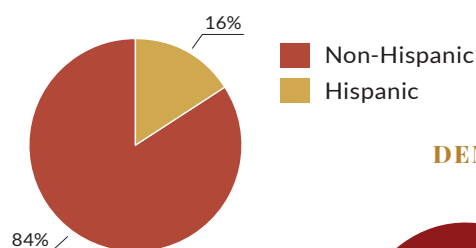
LEON COUNTY

St. John Paul II Catholic High School
 Trinity Catholic School

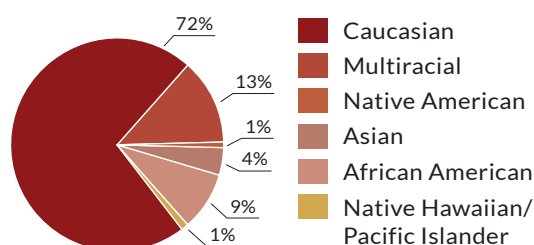
The Students We Serve

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 infants 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.

DEMOGRAPHICS BY ETHNICITY



DEMOGRAPHICS BY RACE



Mustard Seed and Family Grants

Two new grants to help make Catholic education more accessible for families were started in 2020-21 by the diocese.

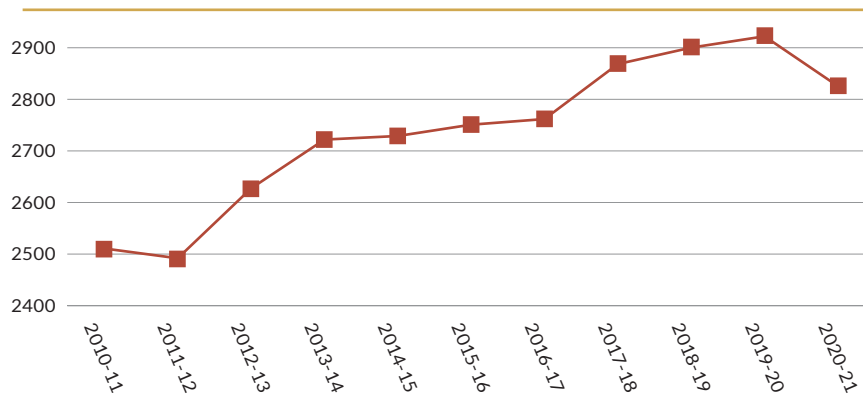
The Catholic Foundation of Northwest Florida generously funded the Mustard Seed Grant, a one year \$2,000 grant for 25 students who had never previously and whose siblings had never previously attended Catholic school. Of the 25 recipients, 92% returned for a second year.

The Diocesan Office of Finance funded family grants of \$900 for eligible families that have a child in one of our Catholic high schools as well as another child in one of our Catholic elementary schools.

66% OF OUR STUDENT BODY IS CATHOLIC

ENROLLMENT FOR 2021-22 HAS ALREADY INCREASED BY 9% TO 3081!

PK-12 Enrollment over Time in Our Nine Schools



erve

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, and volleyball in 2020-21. These sports offered a much appreciated outlet for students as they dealt with the stress of COVID-19.

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.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION BY SEASON

Fall (flag, tackle, cheer, volleyball) 390

Winter (basketball) 417

Spring (soccer) 557



Our Faculty and Staff

'Heartbeat of our Campuses

The heartbeat of our Catholic schools and early learning centers is 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, regardless of subject or personal faith, actively participate in the program.



Forming Future School Leaders

After receiving a grant for leadership development, the Office for Catholic Schools partnered with the **Institute for Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE)** to provide a one-of-a-kind leadership development program. We brought in leaders in Catholic liberal arts education from all across the country to share their expertise with a cohort of current and aspiring administrators in our own Catholic schools. ICLE experts focused on five key areas of school leadership: vision & mission, curriculum, culture & community, the parish-school relationship, and pedagogy. School administrators and faculty participated in webinars, discussions, and assignments, applying the lessons they learned in their own schools.



78%

OF FACULTY IS CATHOLIC

84%

FACULTY RETENTION FROM LAST YEAR





Do you want to do a good deed? *Teach the young!*
Do you want to perform a holy act? *Teach the young!*
Do you want to do a holy thing? *Teach the young!*
**Truly, now and for the future, among holy things,
this is the holiest.**

ST JOHN BOSCO

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 an outside team inspecting all aspects of the school. The following are some highlights among many from the accreditation visiting teams that worked with five of our schools and early learning centers.

LITTLE FLOWER earned high marks during its FCC accreditation renewal, with specific praise for how their school charism permeates the school culture as well as their use of student data.

PENSACOLA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL earned high marks during its Cognia accreditation renewal, with commendations for the implementation of the school's core values and their stakeholder engagement.

ST. JOHN CATHOLIC ACADEMY earned high marks during its FCC accreditation renewal, receiving recognition for its faculty's facilitation of student achievement despite the challenges of Hurricane Michael and COVID-19, as well as its opening of its new early learning center.

ST. ANN DISCOVERY SCHOOL earned accreditation from the FCC, receiving praise for its early learning faith formation and its communication with parents.

ST. BERNADETTE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER earned accreditation from the FCC, receiving commendation for its Catholic culture seen throughout the center and its administrative processes to ensure quality.

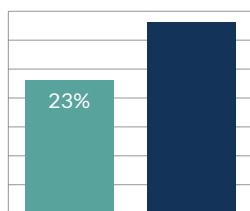


Academic Performance

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 and the tools to be effective communicators of the written and spoken word, able to articulate and defend their faith.

Our students consistently outperform the national average in standardized testing, and high school graduates during the past year collectively *earned nine figures in scholarship money to colleges*. Elementary students take the Terra Nova assessments, while high school students take the ACT and SAT. The graphs below 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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.

BRIGHT FUTURE SCHOLARSHIPS



Thirty-three percent of our eligible high school graduates were awarded Bright Futures Scholarships, well above the statewide average of 23%.

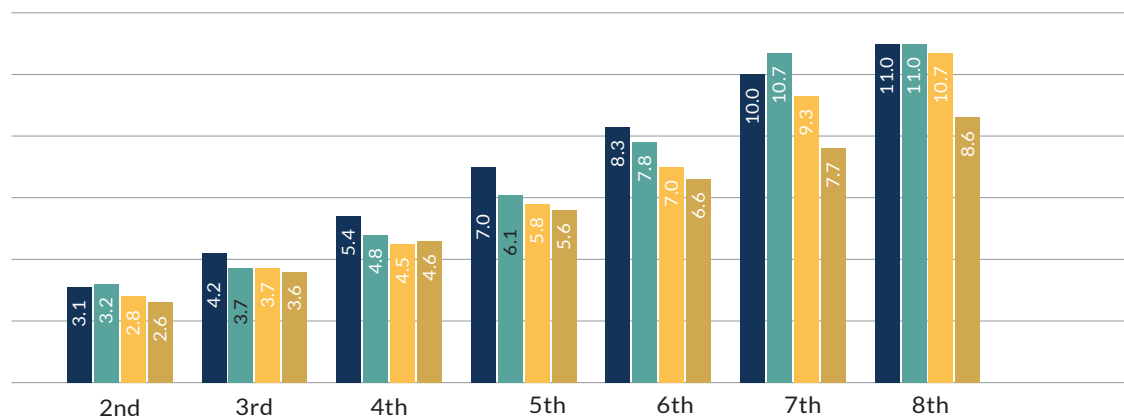
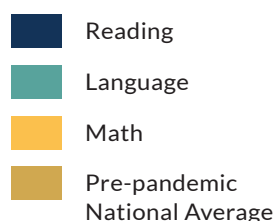
98% graduation rate

95% entering college or military

Multiplying Talents

The average amount of scholarship dollars offered per graduate was **\$126,135**. This is more than **triple** the average four-year tuition for Catholic high schools in our diocese. A collective amount of **\$22,830,473** in scholarships was offered to our high school graduates.

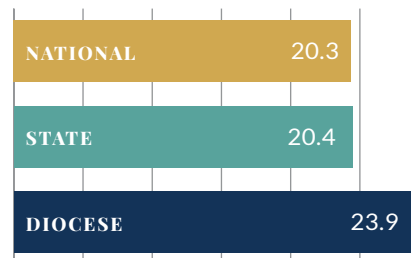
Terra Nova Performance by Grade Equivalent



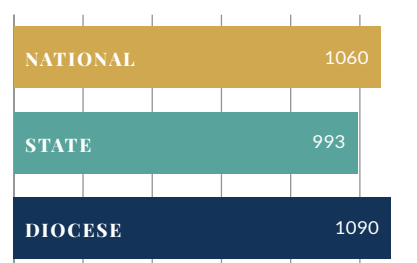
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CLASS OF 2021 AVERAGE ACT



CLASS OF 2021 AVERAGE SAT



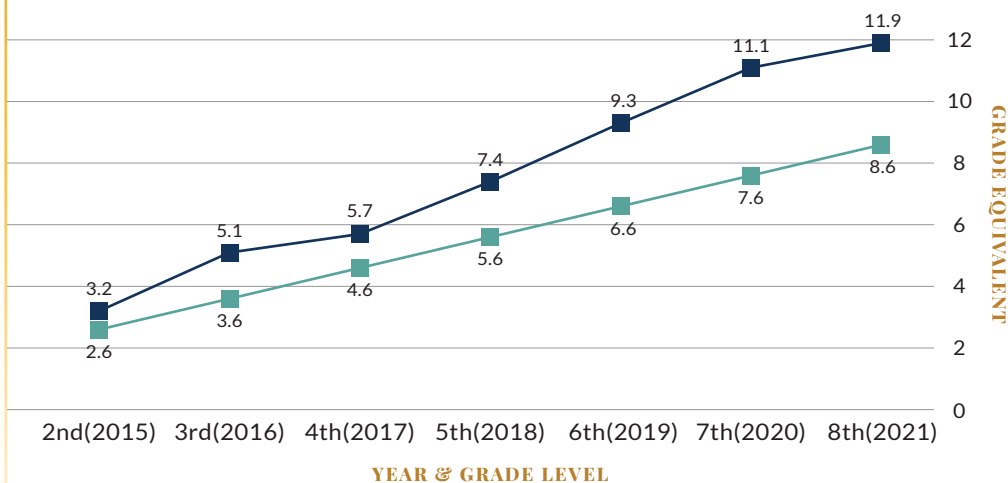
Planning for Success

Each year, our teachers participate in a training day called **Data Day**. The purpose of this professional development, enacted 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 levels. Data Day was particularly valuable this past year, where teachers developed plans to address learning loss due to COVID-19. While our average score remained above the national average on 20 of 21 metrics, strategic targeting of gaps from class time missed during COVID-19 is a top priority for teachers.

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

'Did you know?'

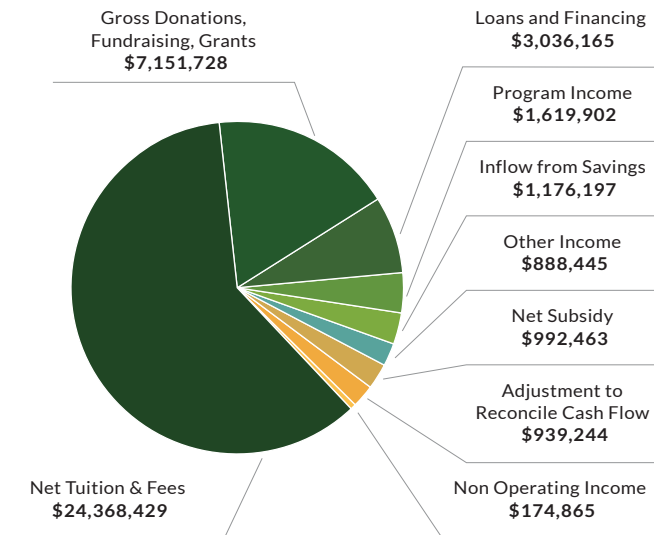
According to the analysis by the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, our diocese's Catholic schools saved the State of Florida \$16,079,463 during the 2020-21 school year. This figure is the projected cost of publicly educating all Florida children enrolled in our Catholic schools minus the total value of all state-funded scholarships awarded to these children.

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 experiences of our students.

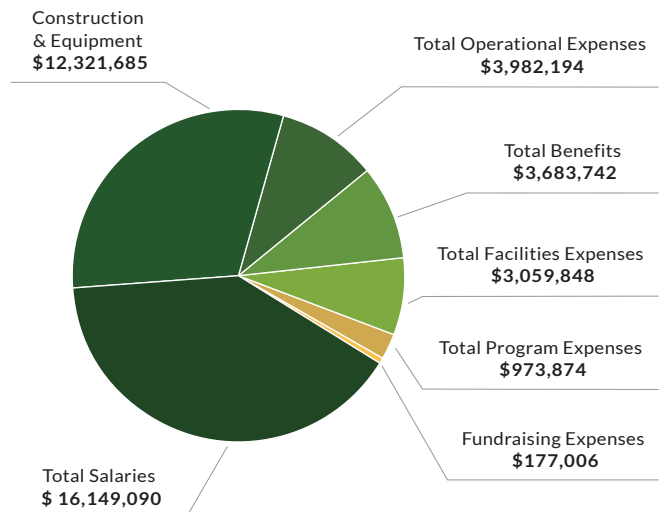
As we seek to keep tuition as low as possible for our families while recognizing the fantastic job performed by our faculty and staff, schools and early learning centers hold fundraisers and annual fund drives to bridge the gap between tuition and the cost to educate a student. School families are encouraged 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



Use of Funds



TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS: \$40,347,439





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 children could change a life forever.

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

SUPPORTING

Catholic Schools

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.

TIME

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.

TALENT

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.

TREASURE

TOTAL COST TO EDUCATE A CHILD

Tuition cost

Tuition gap

Scholarship Opportunities

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

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, \$7,000 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 \$100,000 annually and receive scholarships for their children. Dependent children of a 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, \$10,400 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.



2021-2022 INCOME GUIDELINES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Household Size	Annual Household Gross Income Cap
1	\$48,300
2	\$65,325
3	\$82,350
4	\$99,375
5	\$116,400
6	\$133,425
7	\$150,450
8	\$167,475
9	\$184,500
10	\$201,525
11	\$218,550
12	\$235,575
13	\$252,600



2020-21 DIOCESAN SCHOOLS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Mike Juhas
*Superintendent of
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Jane Rhedin
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CYSL Director

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