



DIOCESE OF JOLIET CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



St. Dennis, Lockport

Finding Hope in the Darkness



Bishop McNamara, Bourbonnais, Bradley and Kankakee

In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. *1 Peter 1: 6-7*

In Catholic schools, we form disciples by finding God in all things. Diocese of Joliet Catholic schools started the 2019-2020 school year in a pre-Covid-19 world, observing annual traditions and the familiar routines of the first school Mass in the fall, Christmas programs in December and beginning the Lenten season. Then things changed. The familiar became unfamiliar. In the darkness, we found hope. We found hope in new ways to teach, learn and live in community – while being physically apart. And we found God in these new experiences.

This year our Catholic Schools Annual Report reflects on the many ways in which we find hope in the darkness and God in all things through our Catholic schools. The selected Bible passages throughout this report express the various attributes of hope that shine brightly in our schools and direct us back to Him who is the source of all light. The stories that follow demonstrate the many ways in which “We Teach More” throughout the 57 Diocese of Joliet Catholic schools. We celebrate the amazing work our schools did pre-pandemic and how our Catholic schools found hope during the darkest spring days of Covid-19, answering the call and providing light in our communities.



St. Isaac Jogues, Hinsdale



St. Joseph, Manhattan



IC Catholic Prep, Elmhurst



St. Paul the Apostle, Joliet

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” *Jeremiah 29:11*



**THE MOST REV.
RONALD A. HICKS**

Bishop of Joliet

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May the Peace of Christ be with you always.

We are pleased to present the annual report of the Catholic Schools Office in the Diocese of Joliet. This has been a challenging year for everyone. In the face of the Covid pandemic, our schools have remained open to serve the spiritual and academic needs of our students. Our schools continue to be a critical ministry of the diocese. Catholic education offers the opportunity for our students to receive an academically-excellent education while having the opportunity to encounter Christ through faith-filled faculty.

My sincere gratitude is extended to the pastors and administrators of the Diocese of Joliet for their commitment to Catholic education. I am grateful to the dedicated people who serve as the principals, teachers and staff of the schools of the diocese who work with our students, day after day, to ensure quality religious and academic education. My sincere thanks are extended to our parents, who have chosen a Catholic education for their children and understand what such a quality education means for the future of their children. Last but certainly not least, I offer my deep appreciation to the faithful of the Diocese of Joliet for their ongoing support of the ministry of Catholic education.

May God bless you as we rejoice in the baptism of our Savior who brings healing and light to our lives and to the world. Peace.



Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus, Joliet

Everything has suddenly changed. What we previously took for granted seems to be uncertain: the way we relate with others at work, how we manage our emotions, study, recreation, prayer...

Pope Francis

Strong in the Face of Tribulation: A Sure Support in Time of Trial



MICHAEL BOYLE, PH.D.

*Superintendent
of Catholic Schools*

As we ended the 2019-20 school year, the reality of Covid-19 presented a number of significant challenges. Pope Francis offered that “present difficulties have stimulated...creativity and inventiveness” and this invited us to new methods of engagement and ministry. This sense of “creativity and inventiveness” was on display in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Joliet. In partnership with families, faculty and administrators worked tirelessly to ensure that schools could continue to provide learning.

This moment in time is reminiscent of the conversion story of St. Ignatius of Loyola. After being seriously injured by a cannonball that caused a lengthy and painful rehabilitation period, St. Ignatius found his calling to ministry. This long journey of discovery eventually led to the founding of the Society of Jesus (the “Jesuits”). In many ways, Covid-19 may be seen as a “cannonball moment.” Our schools demonstrated the ability to meet this challenge and rise above it.

This year’s annual report highlights the important work of the diocesan Catholic schools in shaping saints and scholars. Through rigorous curriculum, regular participation in liturgy and prayer, and service learning, the students of the diocese experience a true “whole student” approach to formation. This work can only be accomplished with the very important partnership among our generous benefactors, families, dedicated pastors and commitment from faculty and administrators – all for the greater glory of God.



St. Joseph, Manhattan

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Collaborating With Families

Understanding that many parents work, and some may even work multiple jobs, our teachers and school leadership do their best to maintain proactive, candid and open communication with each student's family, because learning doesn't stop at the edge of the schoolyard, nor is it where it begins.

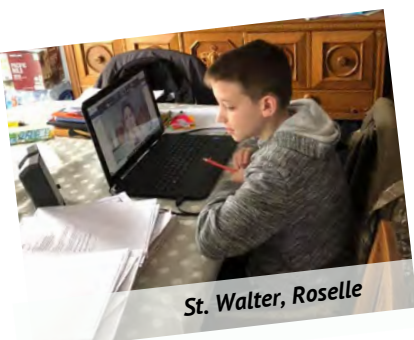


Each year, the Catholic Schools Office hosts *Partners in Education* with school principals and their local school board members – comprised primarily of school parents. The November 2019 event was focused on building more effective boards and featured presentations with practical tips from successful boards. Each school board had time to work together on a common vision, set goals, measure success and develop their culture.

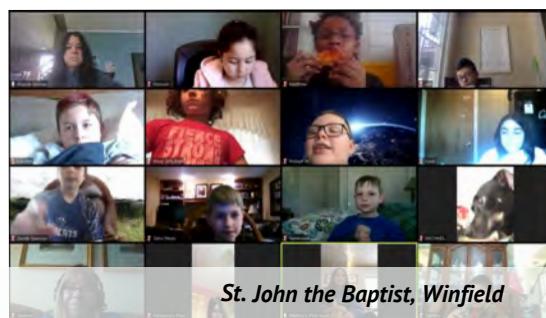
Partnering with parents as the primary educators of their children was never more important than at the onset of the pandemic. Learning didn't stop just because everyone was at home. The reality of staying at home and feeling overwhelmed by the coronavirus changed our daily lives. Families spent more time together and were much more involved in student learning. Our schools found hope that learning would continue at home through their strong faith-filled family communities.



St. Isaac Jogues, Hinsdale



St. Walter, Roselle



St. John the Baptist, Winfield



St. Pius X, Lombard



St. Jude, Joliet

We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:3

Study with Great Teachers

Expert, passionate and selfless, our teachers personally invest themselves in the success of each child, seeing them as not just another student, but rather as someone's beloved son or daughter who is deserving of all the individual attention, undivided love and thoughtful encouragement necessary to reach their full, God-given potential.



Notre Dame, Clarendon Hills

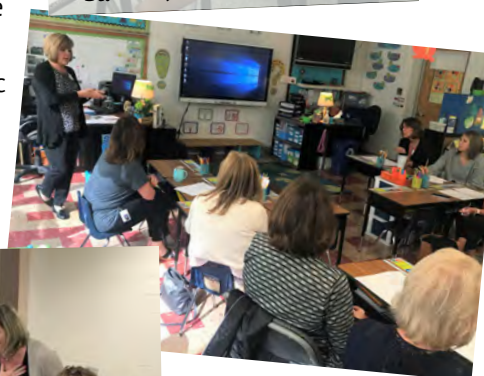
Our elementary school teachers spent two busy days learning at a Teacher Institute at St. Walter School in Roselle and St. Mary School in Mokena in October 2019. Catechetical Day inspired teachers in their important work of leading children to Jesus. Teachers reviewed the diocesan religion curriculum and Catholic curricular standards to sustain a vibrant Catholic culture in the classroom.

Curriculum Day focused on Universal Design for Learning (UDL), a framework to improve

and optimize teaching and learning based on scientific insights into how humans learn. Teachers were encouraged to embrace the idea that every student is different and design lessons for the broadest possible range of students. In breakout sessions, teachers identified barriers students face in their learning and how they could apply UDL to present lessons through multiple means of engagement, representation, action and expression.



St. Irene, Warrenville



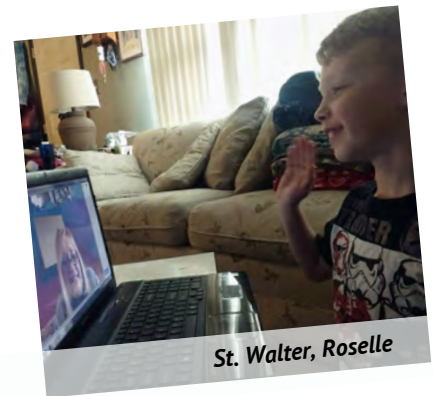
Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade science teachers from multiple schools spent time in November 2019 working collaboratively to develop new performance-based science assessments in alignment with diocesan Catholic and Next Generation science standards. They identified the most essential science skills needed for students at each grade level.



Each year the University of St. Francis recognizes an outstanding Catholic school teacher from the Diocese of Joliet. Nicole Lacy, a first-grade teacher from St. Raphael School in Naperville, was honored as the 2020 Teacher of the Year at Breakfast with the Bishop in January 2020. Students from St. Andrew the Apostle School in Romeoville led the prayer service.



In the early days of the pandemic, the work our teachers did to provide a Catholic education to our students using new delivery methods while school buildings were closed was nothing short of impressive. In addition to not missing one day of school by pivoting to provide instruction online, they spent countless hours adapting lesson plans and were out in their school communities delivering classroom materials to student's homes. Their professionalism, dedication to our Catholic school mission and genuine faith lived for others gave witness to hope that meaningful learning would continue. We remain grateful for their teaching, creativity, patience and generosity.



During At Home Learning in April 2020, our teachers participated in grade level and subject area learning communities via Zoom. They shared digital tools, math and reading resources, daily schedules and grading practices to support each other.

at St. Dennis School in Lockport, was honored with the 2020 Bishop Roger L. Kaffer Outstanding Principal Award at a car parade in May 2020.

Each year Lewis University recognizes an outstanding Catholic school principal from the Diocese of Joliet. Lisa Smith, principal





St. Dominic, Bolingbrook

But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish.

Psalm 9:18

Thanks to these generous benefactors who contributed to a 2019-20 Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship, from December 1, 2018-November 30, 2019, 525 scholarships were awarded to students in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Joliet. These gifts provided hope for families who want their children to have a faith-filled education.

\$100,000 and More

Peter Bensen
Dushan Petrovich
Scott and Heather Schuster
Kenneth Tyrrell

\$25,000-\$99,999

Anonymous (4)
Gail Burjek
David Dieter
Jeffrey J. Kennedy
Edward Mack
James A. Massey Jr.
Stephen J. McShane
Thomas A. Muldowney
Dale Piggush
Donald Raineri
Lawrence Ryan
Thomas W. and Mary Beth Ryan
Robert Sloan
Christian and Meredith Spesia
Mary Spesia

\$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous (7)
Jeff Arseneau
Frank Black
Joseph Bowers

James Brintnall
Earl Cheng
Dale Cooper
Thomas Dewbray
Brian Diamond
Joe Edmonds
Jacob Gancarczyk
Lisa Gaspero
Catherine Hoovel Giffin
Mark Giura
Myron Hendrix
Larry Juricic
John Kaiser
Raymond Kusinski
Robert Lange
David and Susan Lennon
Keith Lopatka
Robert Malpasuto
Timothy McCabe
Roger McKee
James Miller
Maxwell and Mary Mindak
Stephen Morrisette
Mark Napier
Madelyn O'Brien
Neil Piggush
Scott Piggush
Susan Prock
Christine Riedl

Christopher Rogalny
David Rubis
Terrence P. Ruettinger
John Sebastian
Edward and Karen Sepke
Dorothy Stanley
Daniel Tardiff
James Viola
Donald Vitek
Robert Vrchota
Suzanne Whalen

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous (11)
James Belden
Penny Borello
Edward Burjek
Andrew Burnette
Daniel Colbert
Kieran Dempsey
Nicholas Elliott
Roy Gallagher
Megan Gerhardtstein
Denise Gillette
Colleen Johnson
Richard Krause
Anthony Lenard
Michael Moore
John Mulkerin

Gina Mullen
Michael Murphy
Julie Noonan
Eric O'Neill
Julie Pully
Paul Sands
Michael Santay
Mark Smith
Mark Spiotta
Matt Surprenant
Donald Theobald
Terry Torson
Marilyn Van Hoegarden
Nicholas Weis
John Weitz
Thomas Westhoff
Craig Woker
James Worby

\$2,500-\$4,999

Anonymous (5)
Mark Bava
Michael Bava
Dominic Cerrato
Angela Frozena
Emily Gentry
Brian Heller
Mary Ann Jablonski
Robert Janssen
James and Maureen Keate
Mike Le Beau
Cynthia Littlefield
Carol McPheters
Michael Milazzo
Mark Moore
Francis Murray
Jim Nelson
Frank Palmasani
Mercy Robb
Joan Sanew
Lynne Scheffler
John Scheidemantel
William Schubert
Bertha Sobotka
Bradley Stanfield
Patrick Stiff
Daniel Stockl
Bradford Tyl
Daniel Wasilewski
Walter Weisenburger
Joseph Yacullo

\$1,000-\$2,499

Anonymous (10)
Cheryl Allemant
John Brannigan
Michael Breier
Michael Burke

Robert Camp
Juan Carlos Certain
David Corsi
Joseph DiPirro
Joseph DiPirro
James Domenico
Wayne J. Draudt
Louise Dubnick
Lauren Genuardi
Donald Gimbel
Patrick Glynn
Gregor Gorsic
Steven Guertler
Theresa Hawley
Doug Hodak
Donald Hoffman
Daniel Horn
Maureen Kalas
Jerome Kish
Joshua Kopec
John P. Kos
David Lawrence
Dongkyun Lee
Leslie Lenzo
Mark and Delphine Lytell
Thomas Mahoney
Cynthia Marler
James Massura
Diane Matulis
Jeanne Miller
James Minnick
Lester Moore
Nicholas Moore
Michael O'Brien
Maureen O'Neill Nielsen
Joseph Noonan
Samuel Perry
Thomas Pisarczyk
Joseph Ream
Kathleen Rink
Nicholas Rossi
Merry Rothfuchs
John and Patricia Scala
David Schaefer
William Schraeder
Mark Schuessler
Charlotte Sholeen
Patrick Silver
Matthew Simon
Scott Skarda
Sandra Sobotka
Dennis F. Stolarz
Frederick Stumbaugh
Bonnie Sullivan
Stacey Swanson
Julia Vincent
Michael Willow
Michele Zygmunt

\$500-\$999

Anonymous (6)
Stephen Crouch
Anita Eversole
Robert Fraser
Jerome P. Frett
Kriston Giancarlo
Toni Higgenbotham
Robert Hudzik
Briant Kelly
Richard Kelly
Michael LaBianco
Patrick O'Brien
Vincent Pellegrino
Mark Pestrak
Sheldon and Mary Ann Schafer
Glenn Wagner

\$250-\$499

Anonymous (3)
Maggie Augustyn
Ryan Quigley

\$100-\$249

Anonymous (1)
Linda Bland
Mavis DeMar
Barbara Goworowski
Joylene Packard Higgins
Linda Kelly
Charles Lagges
Lisa Latimer
Richard Loechl
James Miller
Mary Murphy
Jane Ranney
Melissa Santos
Thomas Schergen
Kathleen Winters

Up to \$99

Anonymous (1)
Carol Albreski
Margaret Detwiler
Annie Murray
Joanne Policht
Joe Scarpino
Colleen Transier

These scholarships cover up to 100 percent of tuition for a year at Diocese of Joliet Catholic schools. Ongoing funding is needed so we may continue to enroll students who will be instilled with Catholic values and learn more. Start the donation process today at WeTeachMore.org or call Mercy Robb at (815) 221-6124 for details.



St. Philip the Apostle, Addison

As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more. *Psalm 71:14*

Belong to Something Bigger

Our students begin to find new meaning in life through the structured beliefs and moral foundation of the Catholic Church, and to understand that they now belong to something bigger – and infinitely higher – than themselves.

Our schools are noticeably and joyfully Catholic with prayer throughout the day, daily religion instruction and weekly Mass. We celebrate the sacraments and our students interact with the religious. We employ devotional practices, participate in service opportunities and promote vocations.



St. Raphael, Naperville



St. Mary, Mokena



St. Joseph, Downers Grove



St. Jude, New Lenox



All Saints, Naperville

Called by Name Vocation and Discipleship Conference

Religion teachers accompanied nearly 2,000 seventh and eighth graders from our Catholic elementary schools in November 2019 to the Called by Name Vocation and Discipleship Conference at St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale. Inspired by our diocesan seminarian student emcees, students heard engaging talks, sang praise and worship music, competed at Catholic trivia and met members of various religious communities at a vocations fair. The students also had opportunities for confession and concluded the conference with Eucharistic Adoration.





St. Joseph, Lockport



Damien Scott > St. James School Glen Ellyn
 April 10
 Kiddo made this during the week. Couldn't find hair for Jesus though...

We all struggled with finding and holding on to hope at the onset of the pandemic. When facing tests of faith, even the strongest among us can find it challenging to find hope. God, Jesus and the Bible offer hope to us in our daily lives. In addition to the traditional in-school activities before everyone was teaching and learning at home, school families found creative ways to celebrate the Lenten season at home – offering hope for us all.



Cross Chalk Challenge

In April 2020, second-grader Annie Grace Boucek from St. James the Apostle School in Glen Ellyn created a Holy Week challenge. She loves creating art, her school and missed her friends. She challenged friends to chalk a cross and post a picture on social media. By the week after Easter, more than 100 crosses, hearts and other art was chalked on walks and driveways – and windows and doors painted – representing at least 10 states and two countries.



Devotional Project

Through the annual diocese-wide devotional project, students are introduced to practices allowing them to nurture their devotional lives and strengthen their relationship with Jesus, Our Blessed Mother and the Saints. The 2019-20 theme was Classroom Sodalities: Mary Seat of Wisdom. This Sodality fosters in the hearts of the members a more than ordinary devotion to the Blessed Lady, in order that, helped by her special protection, they may lead a pure Christian life and prepare to die a happy death.



St. Mary Nativity, Joliet

Over 15 weeks, students participated in Sodality meetings, activities, readings and discussions, prayed to their heavenly Patroness and discovered God's Truth, Beauty and Goodness in each.

The students were to consecrate themselves to Mary at the conclusion of the project. Because of the pandemic, a short ceremony was broadcast online in May 2020 with each school represented by a white rose given to Mary.



St. John the Baptist, Winfield



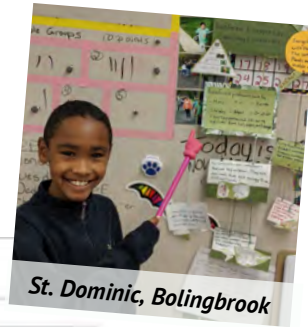
St. Joseph, Downers Grove

Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

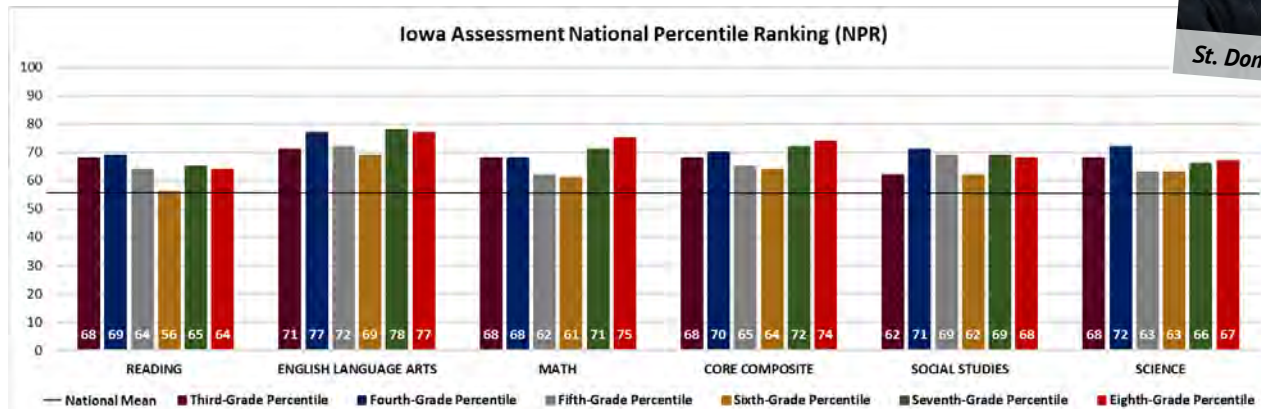
Mark 9:23

Achieve Ahead of Your Peers

Our students score above the national mean in every subject area compared to the national norms in reading, English language arts, math, social studies and science. While the 2019-20 school year concluded remotely, 100 percent of our students with accounts logged in to our student information system and were actively engaged in learning. Students in our schools are taught to rely on their faith for support as they persevere through challenges they experience.



St. Dominic, Bolingbrook



St. Joseph, Lockport



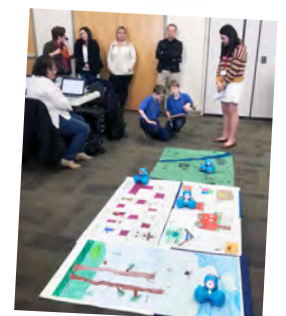
St. Pius X, Lombard



Mother Teresa, Crete

TechFest

Each year the Catholic Schools Office hosts TechFest – an annual technology and learning day – for technology coordinators, principals and teachers to explore, discover and consider new ideas and products. One of the last in-person events for the school year in March 2020, students from Visitation, St. Mary Immaculate, St. Mary Mokena and St. Dennis schools demonstrated their technology projects and programs.





St. Andrew the Apostle, Romeoville

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

Change the World

Our students serve others, better their communities and change the world outside the classroom. They practice gratitude and provide hope for a better future.



St. Joseph, Manhattan



Providence Catholic, New Lenox

Neighborhood Kindness Challenge

In March 2020, St. Mary School in Plano wanted to teach kids some valuable lessons during the pandemic. What better lesson to teach them than kindness? Families were challenged to do some sort of act of kindness, share it on social media using the hashtag #RoyalKindness and then challenge others to pass on the acts of kindness. It was great for all to see how one small act of kindness can go a long way. Families made food for each other and bought food for essential workers. People stepped up to make headbands for nurses. Garbage was picked up, words of encouragement written and prayers were sent from afar. Food was collected for the hungry and children watched how putting a smile on someone's face is a great feeling. By May at least 17 states and nearly 50 acts of kindness were represented.



THE BENEFITS OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION “BY THE NUMBERS” 2019-20

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

1 Peter 5:10



Mary Queen of Heaven, Elmhurst

Preschools/Early Childhood Centers: **2**
Elementary Schools: **47**
High Schools: **8**

Elementary School Students: 12,166 | Elementary School Teachers: 1,184

Average DOJ Elementary School student-to-teacher ratio: **10:1**
Average Illinois* Elementary School student-to-teacher ratio: 18:1



St. Joseph, Downers Grove



Chesterton Academy of the Holy Family, Lisle

High School Students: 4,722 | High School Teachers: 415

Average DOJ High School student-to-teacher ratio: **11:1**
Average Illinois* High School student-to-teacher ratio: 19:1

4-Year Graduation Rate at DOJ Schools: **99%**
4-Year Graduation Rate at Illinois* Public Schools: 88%

Average ACT of Joliet Diocese Schools: **25.2**
Average ACT of Illinois* Public Schools: 24.7

Mean SAT of Joliet Diocese Schools: **1237**
Mean SAT of Illinois* Public Schools: 1007



Bishop McNamara, Bourbonnais, Bradley and Kankakee



St. Francis, Wheaton

College Scholarships offered to our Class of 2020 seniors:
Approximately \$167 million

Percentage of our 2020 high school seniors who graduated from their high school: **99%**

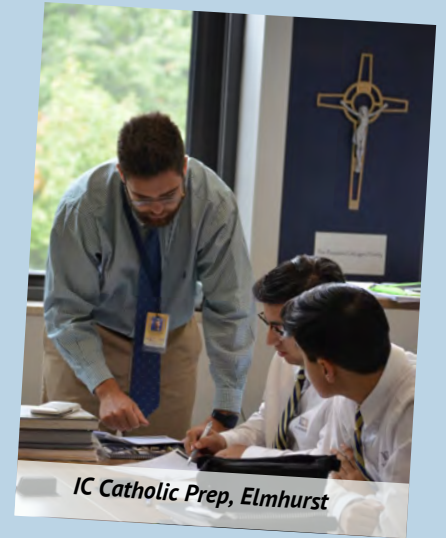
Percentage of our 2020 high school graduates who attended a four-year college or university: **78%**

**2020 Illinois Report Card*



Sacred Heart, Lombard

Total Catholic Education Foundation (CEF) Scholarships and Grants
 Awarded: **\$2,038,813**
 To: **1,414 Students**
 Average Scholarship: **\$1,442**



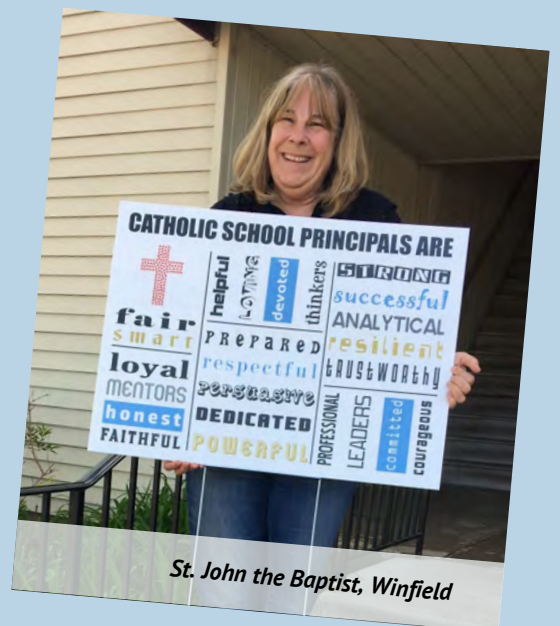
IC Catholic Prep, Elmhurst

Total Tax Credit Scholarships (TCS)
 Awarded: **\$3,188,442**
 To: **525 Students**
 Average Scholarship: **\$6,073**

Elementary Schools Fiscal Year 2019-2020		
	Consolidated Actual	Per Student
Investment in Catholic Education	\$68,230,187	\$6,790
Revenue Sources		
Tuition & Fees	\$46,094,274	\$4,587
Local Fundraising	\$5,503,461	\$548
Parish Investment	\$13,511,756	\$1,345
Other Revenue	\$2,287,628	\$228
TOTAL REVENUE	\$67,397,119	\$6,707



Graduation Mass, May 2020



St. John the Baptist, Winfield

Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Donate to Empower Illinois, our Scholarship Granting Organization, and receive a tax credit from the State of Illinois.

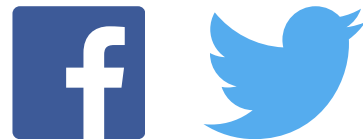
Benefits:

- Make a difference in the life of a Catholic school student
- Receive a 75 percent tax credit on your 2021 Illinois tax return
- Designate your gift to your parish school or to the Diocese of Joliet where it will go to the students who need it most
- For example, a \$1,000 donation will provide a \$1,000 scholarship for a Catholic student in need and you a \$750 state tax credit

Learn more at [WeTeachMore.org](https://www.WeTeachMore.org)

**Are you an alumnus of a
Diocese of Joliet Catholic school?**

Connect today with your
alma mater and learn how to
give back with time, talent
and/or treasure.



**Follow our Catholic schools on
Facebook at @DioceseOfJolietCSO
and on Twitter at @WeTeachMore.**



**CELEBRATE CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS WEEK 2021**

**January 31 -
February 6
#CSW21**