

2012 SCHOOL REPORT



ARCHDIOCESE OF
PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF
CATHOLIC
EDUCATION

Keeping faith in mind



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly says: “As those first responsible for the education of their children, parents have the right to choose a school for them which corresponds to their own convictions. This right is fundamental.”

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, parents and guardians of our Catholic school students, for the tremendous commitment you make each day and school year to afford your child the blessing and gift of a [Catholic school education](#). Your support, involvement and assistance within our elementary, secondary and schools of special education are indeed among our most valuable resources.

This year has provided an increased awareness of the ongoing need of support for our Catholic schools from the broader community. Education today is expensive and, done well, underscores the financial challenges that need to be met in order to make available the necessary programs for our schools.

Education in this 21st century will continue to demand the influence of many hands to support this most essential mission of the Church. The tradition and value of a Catholic school education cannot exist without the involvement and support of parents, guardians, parishioners, community members, businesses and the wider Church membership. The strength of our Catholic schools will be measured on this participation.

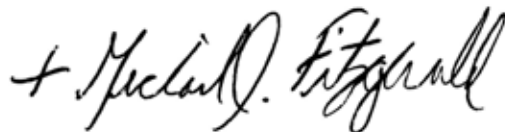
This 2012 School Report will present to you important news and statistics about our Catholic schools. We hope you will read these pages with pride and confidence that we are doing wonderful things with and for your children as they are educated both in the faith and in all of the required academic areas.

The focus of our Catholic schools as promulgated by the [Office of Catholic Education](#) reads:

Catholic Schools form Catholic students to be full and practicing members of the Church, are centers of evangelization that call all to live fully the message of Jesus Christ, and are centers of academic excellence that rigorously prepare students to be lifelong learners and contributing members of the global community.

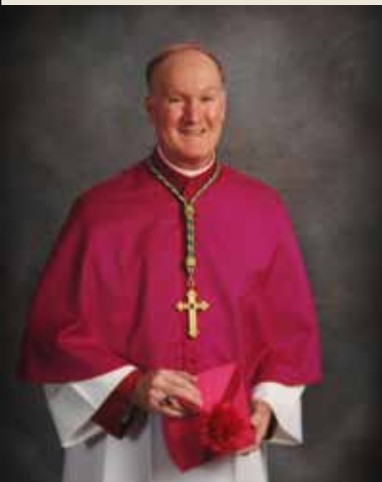
Our efforts, energies and resources are dedicated to this aim! We thank you for your confidence in our schools.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Michael J. Fitzgerald

Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia



CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

This year, the Center for Catholic School Effectiveness, School of Education at Loyola University Chicago, in partnership with the Roche Center for Catholic Education and the Lynch School of Education at Boston College, established **National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools**. A critical component of this document calls Catholic schools to continue their collaboration with parents and guardians as the primary educators in the faith life of their child(ren).

As we complete the 2011-2012 school year, the following are the Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools as outlined in the above referenced document. These characteristics must be very visible and continuously developed as we work together to provide a future full of hope for our children. We are most grateful for the wonderful support of our parents and guardians and know that the spirit that underlies the work of [Catholic education](#) is further enhanced with your commitment and ongoing support!

May God be praised in all we do together!

DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Centered in the Person of Jesus Christ

Contributing to the Evangelizing Mission of the Church

Distinguished by Excellence

Committed to Educate the Whole Child

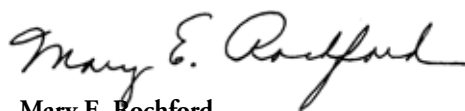
Steeped in a Catholic Worldview

Sustained by Gospel Witness

Shaped by Communion and Community

Accessible to All Students

Established by the Expressed Authority of the Bishop



Mary E. Rochford

*Superintendent, Office of Catholic Education
Archdiocese of Philadelphia*



OUR MISSION



Catholic Schools form Catholic students to be full and practicing members of the Church, are centers of evangelization that call all to live fully the message of Jesus Christ, and are centers of academic excellence that rigorously prepare students to be lifelong learners and contributing members of the global community.

OUR VISION

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia continues its longstanding commitment to providing the highest quality Catholic education to the children of the greater Philadelphia area. As we enter the second decade of this century, we recognize that there are significant trends impacting our lives. These trends challenge our notions of traditional education, as well as our definition of what it means to be Catholic.

Our students live in a dramatically different world than the one in which most of today's adults grew up. Advances in technology, changes in our demographics, the globalization of our economy, and the contradictions in societal values make the availability of a vibrant, relevant, rigorous Catholic Education more important than ever. We must provide our young people with the tools and direction they need to function amid these challenges, including the guiding message of the Gospel.

To this end, the Office of Catholic Education has developed a strategic plan to guide the ongoing evolution, direction and development of our schools. This plan is a living document with goals created around five year targets. Actions have been developed for year one only and will be extended annually to ensure the continued vibrancy and responsiveness of our direction. The plan will be assessed, modified, and improved based on its impact and effectiveness. What will not be modified, however, is the unwavering commitment expressed in our Mission Statement.

As full and practicing members of the Catholic Church, all Catholic students, in collaboration with their parents/guardians, parish and school community, will learn to live fully the call of their Baptism in following Christ. Holding fast to the faithfulness of Gospel living, frequent reception of the sacraments and responsive to the Church's expectations for a full participating member, the students will come to understand the deeper purpose of a Catholic Education. They will be called daily to live like Christ and integrate Gospel values into their ever-maturing person.

As centers of academic excellence, our Catholic Schools provide rigorous and relevant academic instruction for all students. We promote high levels of student engagement in the classroom learning process in order to maximize academic talents and minimize barriers to educational success. Each student will come to realize greater levels of individual achievement as grade levels progress.

Pope Benedict XVI describes Catholic Schools as "an outstanding apostolate of hope, seeking to address the material, intellectual and spiritual needs of... students... Their long-term sustainability must be assured. Indeed, everything possible must be done, in cooperation with the wider community, to ensure that they are accessible to people of all social and economic strata."

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

We believe our Catholic schools are an integral part of the Church's mission to teach young people how to proclaim the Gospel, build faith communities, celebrate through Worship, and serve others

We believe the goal of our Catholic schools is to assist parents/guardians in preparing the next generation of practicing Catholics who are well educated in the Catholic faith and capable of leadership in creating a just and Gospel-centered society

We believe our Catholic schools are committed to academic excellence, fostering the intellectual development and growth of faculty and students in embracing learning attitudes of the 21st century

We believe student learning in our Catholic schools begins with a rigorous curriculum presented in a learning environment that supports high levels of student engagement where ever-evolving technologies and 21st century skills are integrated with information relevant to the present as well as the future

We believe all students in our Catholic schools need to be given frequent opportunities to think critically, work collaboratively, and make appropriate choices in an academic climate that allows for growth in the student's ability to express learning in creative ways

We believe a safe, orderly, and respectful learning environment is necessary for a quality Catholic education

We believe our Catholic schools embrace cultural diversity reflective of the world in which our students will live and work in this 21st century

We believe supportive relationships enhance the learning capabilities of all of our students

THE STRUCTURE OF OUR SCHOOLS

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia encompasses 123 Catholic elementary schools, 17 high schools, and four schools for special education. Extending beyond the city of Philadelphia, the Archdiocese spans the surrounding counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia. These diverse areas—each with their own unique demographics and traditions—make the Archdiocese of Philadelphia the culturally rich community that it is.

One important distinction between schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and other Archdiocesan schools is the unique way in which the administration is structured.

In our Archdiocese, the parish and regional elementary schools are under the authority of the Pastor from each parish. The Pastor is the final authority at the local parish and school level, though he is supported through his leadership groups in the parish, namely the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Council. The Pastor delegates authority to the school Principal to oversee the day-to-day operation of the program.

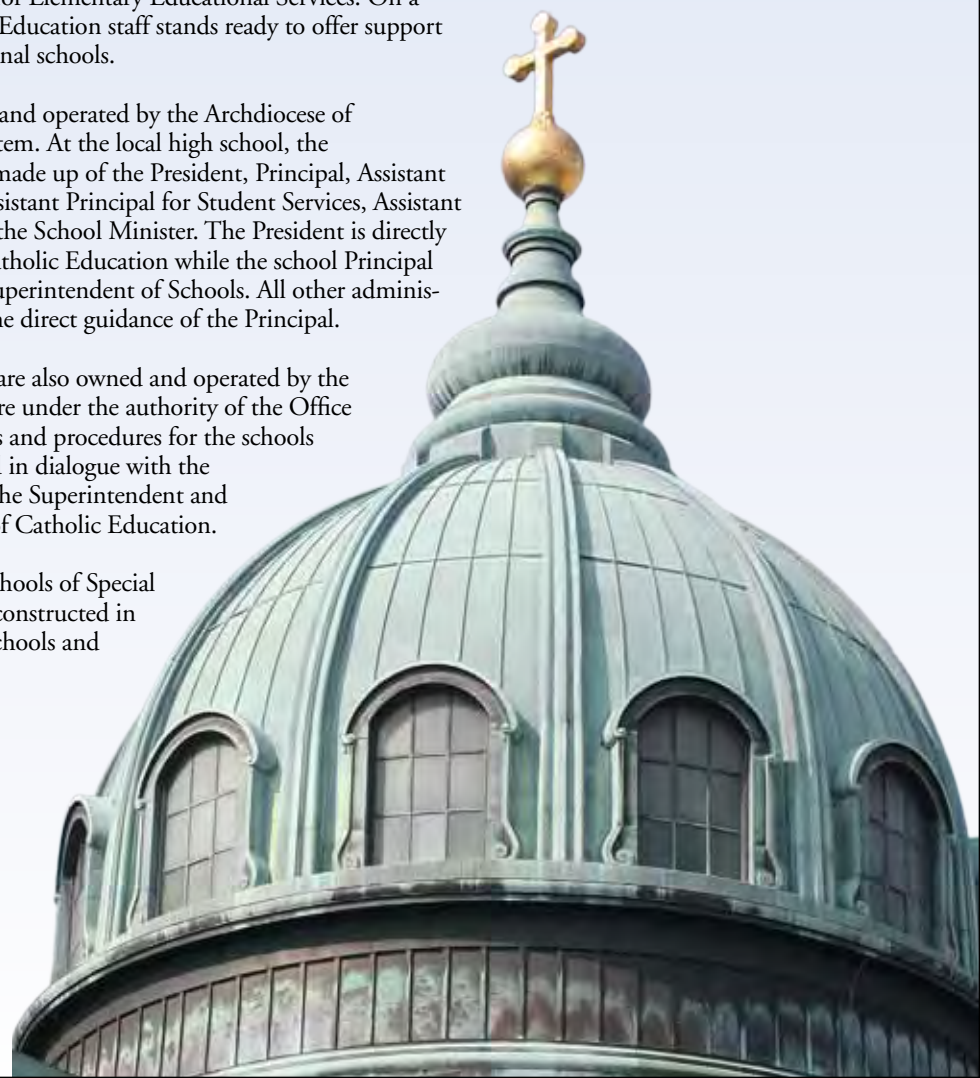
The Elementary Staff in the Office of Catholic Education offers spiritual, academic, and personal guidance and support to the pastor through its work with the school administration and faculty. In addition to visiting the parish and regional schools each year for the purpose of ongoing spiritual and academic support, the Elementary Staff is also responsible for developing curriculum guidelines, approving the list of teacher prospects, and planning the Principal Meetings. The Office of Catholic Education guides the local parish or regional school to formulate a visionary strategic plan guiding the work of the school's administration, faculty, and staff.

Professional development opportunities, planning for a fuller integration of technology, as well as current educational initiatives, are provided for the schools from the Directors and the Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Educational Services. On a daily basis, the Office of Catholic Education staff stands ready to offer support and service to the parish and regional schools.

The secondary schools are owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and function as a system. At the local high school, the administrative leadership team is made up of the President, Principal, Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs, Assistant Principal for Student Services, Assistant Principal for Student Affairs, and the School Minister. The President is directly responsible to the Secretary for Catholic Education while the school Principal reports to the President and the Superintendent of Schools. All other administrative team members are under the direct guidance of the Principal.

The schools of Special Education are also owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and are under the authority of the Office of Catholic Education. All policies and procedures for the schools of Special Education are generated in dialogue with the administration of the school and the Superintendent and disseminated through the Office of Catholic Education.

Both secondary schools and the schools of Special Education follow a strategic plan constructed in conjunction with the individual schools and the Office of Catholic Education.



ACCREDITATION



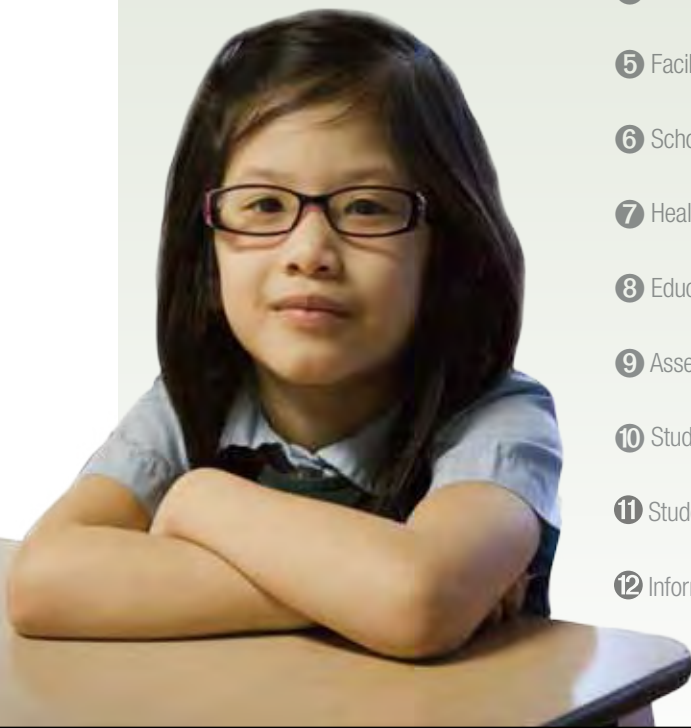
All secondary schools and 99 percent of the elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia have been accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA). The remaining elementary schools have completed the accreditation process and are currently in process and are awaiting accreditation. Early Childhood programs in the Archdiocese have also begun the process of obtaining MSA accreditation.

The MSA—comprising the Commission on Elementary Schools, Commission on Higher Education, and the Commission on Secondary Schools—ensures that participating schools maintain various standards of excellence (see list below).

For more information on these standards, visit www.ces-msa.org.

STANDARDS

- 1 Philosophy/Mission
- 2 Governance and Leadership
- 3 School Improvement Planning
- 4 Finances
- 5 Facilities
- 6 School Climate and Organization
- 7 Health and Safety
- 8 Educational Program
- 9 Assessment and Evidence of Student Learning
- 10 Student Services
- 11 Student Life and Student Activities
- 12 Information Resources and Technology



QUESTION

What are the benefits of sending my child to a Catholic school?

ANSWER

When considering the value of any education, one must consider not only the way a student performs academically, but also the long-term effects that education has on the student. Therein lies the unique [value of a Catholic education](#). Our schools offer priceless lifelong dividends by providing students with a strong academic program that is infused with character and faith formation.

We believe strongly in the enormous value of a Catholic education and encourage you to discover that value for yourself. You are always welcome to make an appointment to [visit one of our schools](#). There, you can speak with our administrators, teachers, and even students to learn more about the many benefits of a Catholic education.

A COMMITMENT TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

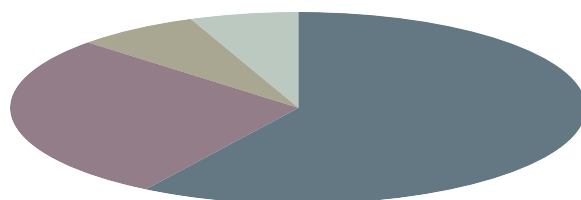
The Value of a Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is indeed priceless. Yet, the economic hardships that confront our nation are equally profound in our own educational system. The same burdens faced by our faithful families remain a constant at every level of elementary, secondary, and special education. We are diligent in our efforts to contain the many expenses that are often beyond our control. Certainly, the soaring costs of health care, utilities, and related expenses pose a continuous challenge as we progress with our desire to keep tuition as affordable as possible.

Providing the very best academic product – rooted in Gospel values – is a tireless commitment we make to our students and their families. We are equally grateful for their commitment to embrace a Catholic education, despite the challenging costs. Their ongoing sacrifices, combined with the dedicated efforts of teachers and administrators who steward the spiritual and academic development of their children, bode well for the future of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REVENUE AND EXPENSES

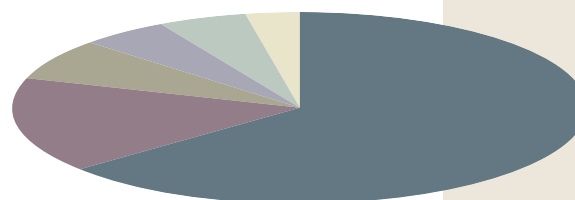
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011

Revenues



- Tuition Income 59%
- School Subsidy from Parishes 28%
- Miscellaneous Income 7%
- Socials and Donations, Net 6%

Expenses



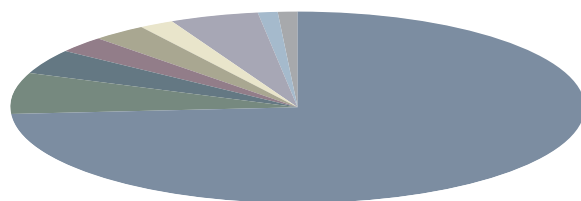
- Salaries 64%
- Payroll Taxes & Fringe Benefits 16%
- School Administration 7%
- Utilities 5%
- Maintenance 5%
- Other Expenses 3%



HIGH SCHOOL REVENUE AND EXPENSES

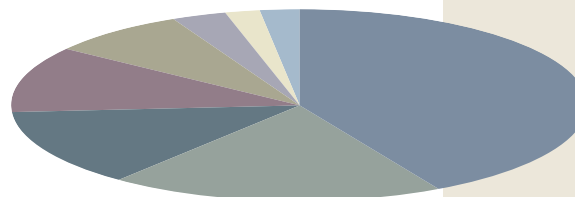
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011

Revenues



- Net Tuition and Student Fees 74%
- Contributions & Donations 7%
- Fund Raising/Resale 4%
- Activities and Athletics 3%
- Parish Assessment 3%
- Other Revenue 2%
- Net Gains (Losses) on Investments 5%
- Interest and Investment Income 1%
- Contributed Services 1%

Expenses

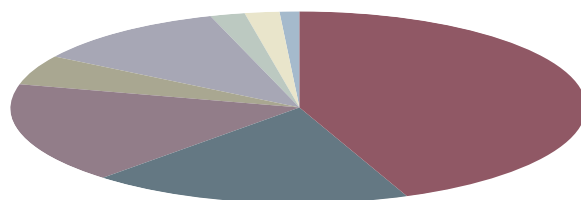


- Instruction 42%
- Employee Benefits 19%
- Administration 13%
- Plant Operations 11%
- Activities and Athletics 8%
- Building Renovations 3%
- Other Expenses 2%
- Debt Service 2%

SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS REVENUE AND EXPENSES

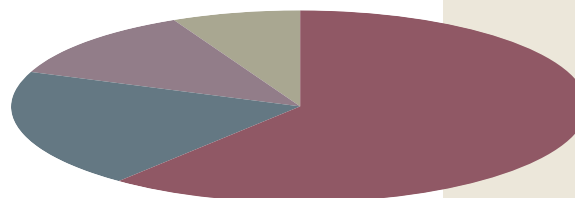
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011

Revenues



- Catholic Charities 44%
- Contributions and Donations 18%
- Tuition 17%
- Fund raising 5%
- Net Gains (Losses) on Investments 11%
- Contributed Services 2%
- Interest and Investment Income 2%
- Miscellaneous Income 1%

Expenses



- Instruction 60%
- Employee Benefits 19%
- Administration 13%
- Plant Operations 8%



OUR TEACHERS

The teachers of the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are dedicated to the academic and moral development of each and every student. They actively participate in and moderate a wide variety of activities and service projects that promote the total growth of the students entrusted to them.

In our schools, the focus is always on realizing each student’s academic and spiritual potential, rather than on “teaching to the test.” Teachers strive to create a safe, positive environment in which Gospel Values like Truth, Compassion, Forgiveness, and Faith are woven into daily lessons and experiences.

The Office of Catholic Education provides teachers with many avenues for continuing professional development. Workshops occur at all levels and allow teachers to choose the courses that are most beneficial to their needs. In this past school year, all teachers have received training in the Understanding by Design (UbD) framework for improving student achievement. Emphasizing the teacher’s critical role as a designer of student learning, UbD works within the standards-driven curriculum to help teachers clarify learning goals, devise revealing assessments of student understanding, and craft effective and engaging learning activities. Our teachers are fully equipped with 21st century instructional strategies and utilize the National Education Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS-T).

All permanent secondary teachers in our schools must:

- 1 Be practicing members of a faith with a letter from a clergy person verifying attendance and affiliation.
- 2 Have a four-year teaching degree with certification (to receive tenure).
- 3 Undergo the following police checks: FBI clearance, criminal background check, and child abuse clearance. Teachers also participate in the Safe Environment Training program.



22%
Elementary
teachers
with Advanced
Degrees*

55%
Secondary
teachers
with Advanced
Degrees*

*Includes MA, DMA, and Ed.D.



OUR STUDENTS

Who are the young men and women receiving outstanding educations from the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia? They are a truly diverse population, coming from many different backgrounds, cultures, and even religions. Again, the extraordinary diversity of our population only adds to the richness of our schools and the larger Archdiocesan community.



The charts below offer a closer look at the students in our schools.

2010-2011 Statistics · Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Total Enrollment = 68,396 students



Minority	23.50%
Caucasian	76.50%
Catholic	85.46%
Non-Catholic	14.54%
Boys	48.96%
Girls	51.04%

QUESTION

What is the average class size?

ANSWER

There is an average of 25 to 30 students within our classrooms which is the national norm for Catholic schools. The size of our classes allows teachers to implement a small group learning approach to instruction. This approach ensures that students have frequent opportunities to think critically and work collaboratively in a setting that allows for personal growth and creative expression.



CLASS SIZE

The class sizes in the schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are structured in a way to ensure students receive not only an exceptional education but also an affordable one.

Our teachers utilize a variety of instructional strategies in order to address and meet the individual needs and learning styles of their students, including cooperative learning, flexible grouping, and learning centers. Throughout the day, students have the opportunity to interact with their classmates and participate in a variety of hands-on activities with real world connections. The result is that the students become more engaged in class and in their education.

TUITION

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has one of the most reasonable tuition packages in the United States for parish, regional, and secondary schools. This is due in large part to the generosity of our parishes that contribute as much as 35% of tuition costs each year on the elementary level.



TUITION ASSISTANCE

Elementary School Tuition Assistance

Tuition and fees in the parish and regional elementary schools vary from school to school. [Tuition assistance](#) for elementary schools is provided locally by the school or parish and by organizations such as BLOCS (www.blocs.org) and the Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (www.csphiladelphia.org).

High School Tuition Assistance

The secondary schools operated by the Archdiocese are funded principally through tuition and fees which accounted for 74% of total revenue for the schools in 2010-11. Over \$11.3 million in funding was provided for tuition assistance and scholarships in the 2010-11 school year for secondary students. This funding represents 11.2% of tuition and fee revenue. The largest source of funding comes from school and alumni organizations which provided \$6.0 million. Third party organizations such as the Connelly Foundation, The Ellis Trust, and the Sullivan Foundation provided \$2.8 million while an additional \$1.0 million came from the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. The Office of Catholic Education also provides funding through its Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), which allocated \$1.6 million in funding in the 2010-11 school year.

Educational Improvement Tax Credit

[The Educational Improvement Tax Credit \(EITC\)](#) gives businesses the opportunity to invest in tomorrow's workforce. Companies who donate through the EITC program contribute to the academic success of students and earn a substantial tax credit in the process. Every year, thousands of Pennsylvania businesses earn tax credits for making donations to local scholarship organizations to make sure our children get the education they need to succeed in life. For the 2010-2011 school year, \$60 million was dedicated to the EITC program throughout the state.

Enacted in 2001, the EITC program has become the national model for business educational tax credit programs. It provides a tax credit of up to 90% for companies that donate to non-profit scholarship and educational improvement organizations. Since the program's inception in 2001, more than 3,600 Pennsylvania companies have participated in the EITC program—donating over \$430 million to participating organizations!

EITC donations for students in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia go through BLOCS (Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools) and 100% of these donations provide tuition assistance for our students.





BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Fourteen elementary schools in the Archdiocese have been recognized by the Department of Education as Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence:

- 🏆 Nativity of Our Lord School, Warminster
- 🏆 Epiphany of Our Lord School, Plymouth Meeting
- 🏆 Grey Nun Academy, Yardley
- 🏆 Gwynedd-Mercy Academy Elementary School, Spring House
- 🏆 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School, Doylestown
- 🏆 Rosemont School of the Holy Child, Rosemont
- 🏆 St. Aloysius Academy, Bryn Mawr
- 🏆 St. Anastasia School, Newtown Square
- 🏆 St. Genevieve School, Flourtown
- 🏆 St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic School, Yardley
- 🏆 St. John the Evangelist School, Morrisville
- 🏆 Waldron Mercy Academy, Merion Station
- 🏆 Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, North Wales
- 🏆 Ancillae-Assumpta Academy, Wyncote

QUESTION

How do Catholic schools measure up to surrounding schools?

ANSWER

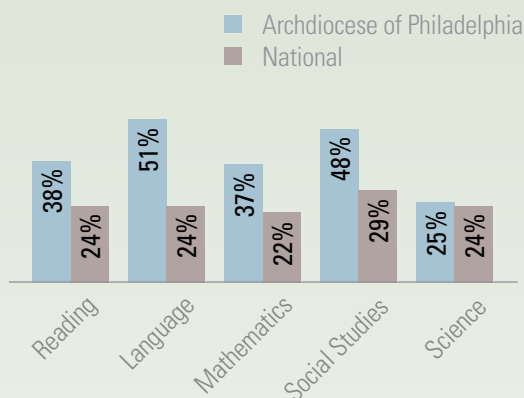
A Catholic education provides students with a challenging curriculum that is rigorous, relevant, and above all, rooted in the Catholic faith. For nearly ten years, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has partnered with the International Center for Leadership in Education. The Center examines our curriculum to ensure our students gain the appropriate learning skills and abilities each year. In addition, we work closely with the Partnership for 21st Century Skills to guarantee our schools and academic programs are equipped with the strongest instructional tools available.

TEST SCORES

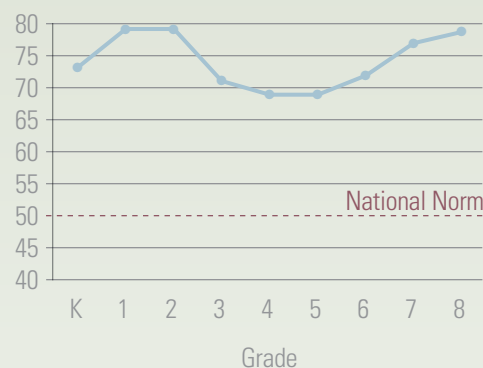
It's no surprise that an outstanding curriculum produces outstanding results. In the case of the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the results tell a story of academic excellence that leads to impressive real-world outcomes. These results are not only impressive on a regional level but also when compared to national scores.

- In the 2010-2011 school year, Archdiocesan students performed above the national norm in all grade levels.
- The top 33% of Archdiocesan students who took the SAT in the 2010-2011 school year, scored 71 points above the national public schools in Writing, 66 points above in Critical Reading, and 49 points above in Math.
- Over 50% of all AP exams taken in 2010-2011 school year resulted in students being eligible for college credit in that subject.

2010-2011 Average TerraNova Proficiency Levels by Subject (Grade 7)

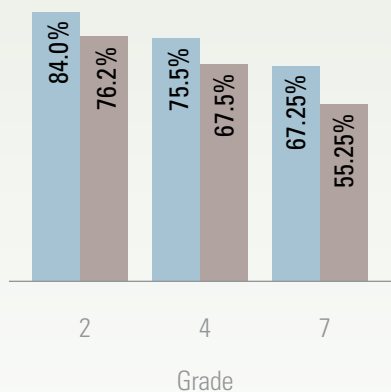


2010-2011 Normed Reference Scores

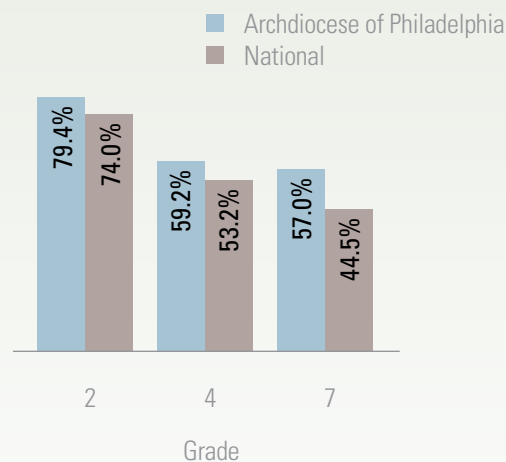


2010-2011 Objectives Performance Index Scores (Grades 2, 4, 7)

Reading



Math



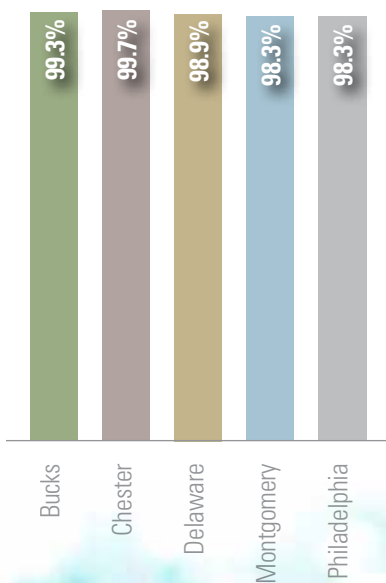
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

Archdiocesan schools in Philadelphia are fully committed to ensuring students are well prepared for an academic experience beyond secondary school. After graduation, our students go on to attend some of the nation's finest colleges and universities.

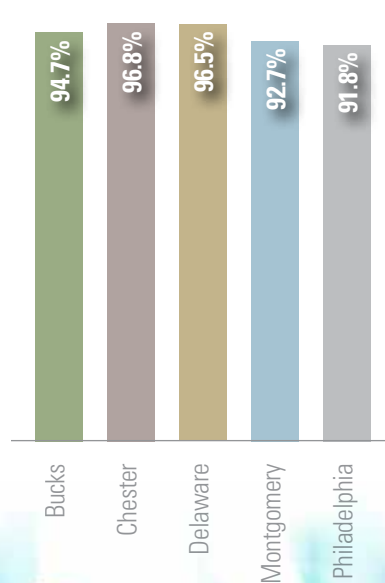
the Class of 2012 received
\$283,118,824
 THE HIGHEST IN HISTORY

The charts below illustrate recent graduation rates of our students, as well as statistics on post-secondary education. See how our schools compare to public schools in the five county area of Philadelphia and the state of Pennsylvania.

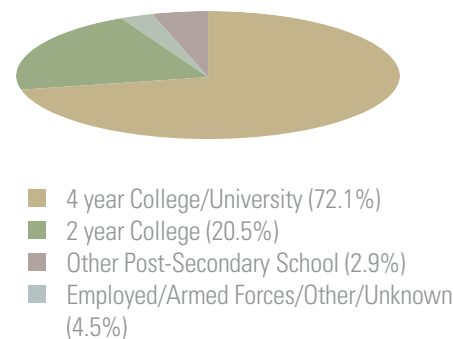
Archdiocesan Graduation Rates* by County



Archdiocesan Class of 2012 Post-Secondary Education by County



Over 95% of the Class of 2012 graduates went on to post-secondary colleges and universities



*Students graduated on time within a 4-year period

COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS & DIOCESAN SCHOLARS

College Partnerships

The Office of Catholic Education, in collaboration with local colleges and universities, encourages students to engage in college coursework during the junior and senior years of high school. More than 150 students participate in over 50 college partnerships. College partnerships are arranged in a variety of formats such as the Diocesan Scholars Program, Dual Enrollment Programs in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Articulation Agreements where Archdiocesan secondary school courses are approved for college credit, and various other on-site and off-site college opportunities.

Diocesan Scholars

The Diocesan Scholars Program provides selected Archdiocesan high school seniors with the exceptional opportunity to attend college courses at nearby Catholic colleges and universities. As “guests” of those schools, participating scholars are not charged tuition. They are, however, responsible to provide their own transportation to and from campus and to purchase the required textbooks for their courses. Participating Catholic colleges and universities provide this opportunity to students in recognition of the quality education offered by Archdiocesan high schools.

- Diocesan Scholars are selected from among the top 3% of the juniors at each Archdiocesan school.
- Students may enroll in a maximum of two college courses per semester, earning a possible 12 college credits before leaving high school.
- In 2010-2011, there were 159 students participating in the program.



SCHOOLS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Our [Schools of Special Education](#) offer a comprehensive educational program in an environment that nurtures self-esteem, independence, and academic and functional performance. The four schools of Special Education of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia ensure that our special needs students receive specially designed instruction that includes supplementary aids and services in the least restrictive environment, as well as the full benefits of a Catholic education.

Our two sensory schools (St. Lucy for the Blind and Archbishop Ryan for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired) follow the curriculum of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These schools strive to meet the needs of students with visual impairments or who are deaf or hard of hearing.

At St. Lucy for the Blind, students learn with the assistance of adaptive materials, which can be used both at school and at home. At Archbishop Ryan for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, students communicate through American Sign Language and participate in our Oral Academy where they develop speaking, reading and language skills.

Our two schools for children with cognitive impairments (Our Lady of Confidence and Saint Katherine Day School) provide training in life skills and functional academics to help students reach their full potential and become active and vital members of their community. The students from both programs extend their formal learning experience into the high school programs centering on Life Skills at Bishop McDevitt High School in Wyncote and Archbishop Carroll High School in Radnor.



SCHOOLS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

(CONTINUED)

Learning Support Programs

In addition to our four schools of Special Education, the Archdiocese offers four of its elementary schools and two of its secondary schools as sites for [Learning Support Programs](#). Each program provides learning support in an inclusive environment for students with learning disabilities and learning challenges. Students learn academic and organizational skills that foster academic performance, self-acceptance, self-discipline and consistent work habits. Students receive the support needed to become responsible members of the communities in which they live.

Students in our high school Learning Support Programs are mainstreamed for all classes and also participate in a Learning Strategies period where they work with a specialized teacher to master specific strategies to help them succeed in the general education classroom.

[Click here to watch a brief video on our Special Education programs.](#)



ATHLETICS



Athletics in our Archdiocesan schools promote teamwork, teach sportsmanship, and build character. These values can be traced back to the summer of 1920, when a Diocesan Priest, who would later be known as Monsignor Bonner, formed the Philadelphia Catholic League.

During the 2007-2008 school year, the Philadelphia Catholic League joined the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Division 12. PIAA includes 1,500 schools, 95 of which are from the Philadelphia Catholic League and Philadelphia Public League. By joining the competitive PIAA, our students now have improved sporting and scholarship opportunities. We have also seen an increase in the number of student athletes named to “All-State” designations.

The Philadelphia Catholic League is the only entity of its kind in Pennsylvania. It acts as its own league but also maintains status within Division XII of the PIAA. Since joining the PIAA, we have crowned a Catholic League Champion in each sport, while also sending multiple representatives within each sport to Division 12 Championships.

SPORTS AND SPIRITUALITY

Many of our athletic teams perform charitable works as part of their athletic commitments. In fact, many Archdiocesan schools participate in a program called “Athletes Helping Athletes” which supports athletes with special needs throughout their journey in the world of sports.

Championship Success

The Philadelphia Catholic League has had an unprecedented level of success. In just over two years, our athletes have made 19 State Championship appearances, winning 8 state titles.

- Archbishop John Carroll High School Girls' Basketball
- West Philadelphia Catholic High School Girls' Track
- Ss Neumann Goretti Catholic High School Boys' Basketball
- Archbishop Wood High School Girls' Basketball
- Archbishop Wood High School Football





TECHNOLOGY

Though Catholic education is a centuries-long tradition, it is hardly behind the times. On the contrary, the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia place great emphasis on utilizing modern technology to enhance the learning process.

The Office of Catholic Education is committed to incorporating technology in Archdiocesan classrooms to fully prepare students for the present and future. “These emerging technological trends are a large part of that future,” says the Director of K to 12 Technology. “The ubiquitous use of technology that is a part of our student’s daily lives must equally be present in the class-

room,” says the Director of K to 12 Technology.

“Technology can no longer be considered an extra or add-on, its use must be ever present to prepare students for the world they are living in today.” Including school leaders in the technology planning process is a priority. Our school leaders benefit from knowledge on the latest research and trends on technologies, and can support this growth in their schools.

Regardless of course of study or career goals, a solid grasp of technology skills is fostered in our schools each and every day. In classrooms from kindergarten through 12th grade, we strive to uphold a curriculum that correlates with the National Technology Standards for Students (NETS). In addition, all Catholic schools follow an Acceptable Use Policy to promote safe and ethical use of the Internet and all technologies.

Bolstered not only by traditional teaching methods but also state-of-the-art technology, a Catholic education provides students with a challenging curriculum that is rigorous, relevant, and above all, rooted in the Catholic faith.

Technology is an essential part of daily lives and we incorporate cutting-edge technology in our schools to enrich the ways in which our teachers teach and our students learn. Our:

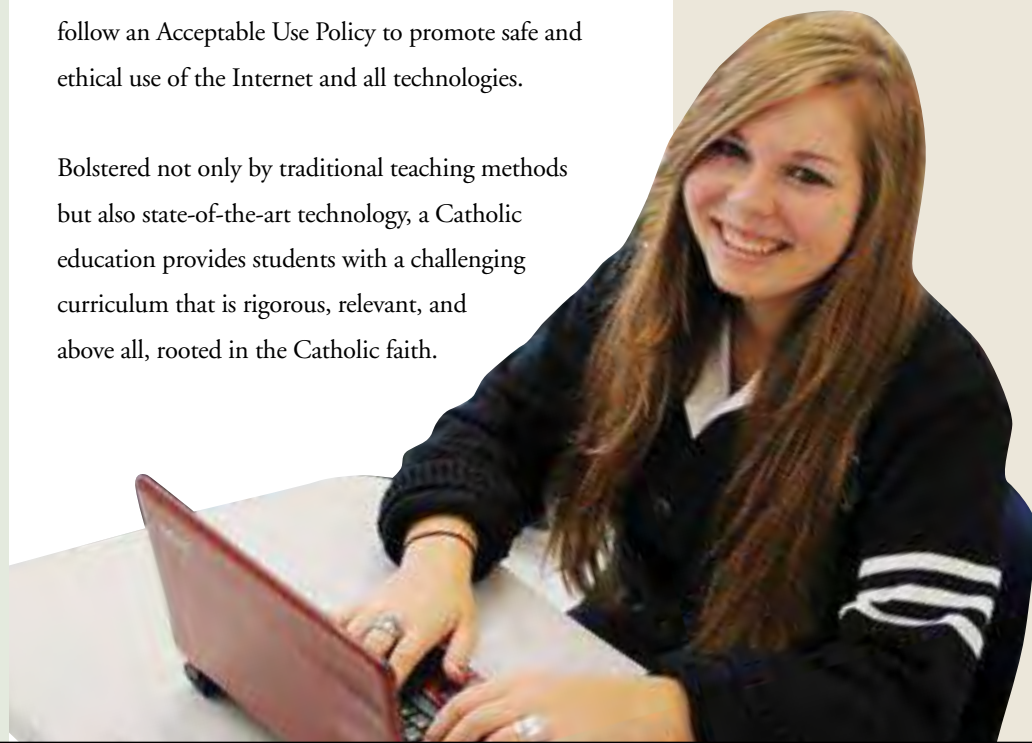
- *Virtual Academy provides teachers and administrators with ongoing and useful professional development courses online.*
- *Students are equipped with mobile technologies so they can connect to a world of learning on the Internet.*
- *Classrooms feature interactive whiteboards, projectors, and digital cameras to make learning more engaging and interactive.*
- *Modern web tools, resources, and robust networks expand and support the world of learning for our students.*
- *Schools are looking to further explore:*
 - *iPads*
 - *Mobile computers and cell phones*
 - *One to One Laptops*
 - *Ebooks*
 - *Interactive Whiteboards*
 - *Digital Video and Photography*
 - *Online assessments for learning*

QUESTION

Are Catholic schools “behind-the-times” with technology?

ANSWER

Through generous funding from the government, actively sought grant sources, and individual school commitment, our schools make it a top priority to stay on the cutting edge of technology. For two years, schools have been provided with mobile technologies so that more students could begin benefiting from mobile learning. On the whole, our schools pride themselves on the ways they have seamlessly integrated the latest technology into their curriculums.



FAITH IN THE FUTURE

The Catholic elementary and high schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are part of a centuries-long tradition of academic excellence. Yet, perhaps now more than ever, the future leaders of our communities and institutions need the unique benefits of a faith-based Catholic education.

We are committed to giving our students the tools, skills, and guidance they need to not only overcome 21st-century challenges, but also to flourish intellectually, morally, and spiritually.

Outstanding TerraNova scores, 14 U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, and the very latest technology and teaching techniques characterize today's Archdiocesan Catholic schools. All in safe, faith-focused surroundings, where the most qualified teachers instill moral and spiritual values that will last a lifetime. But don't take our word for it. Visit the links below to see for yourself just how much a Catholic education has to offer for your children:

[Find a Catholic School Near You](#)

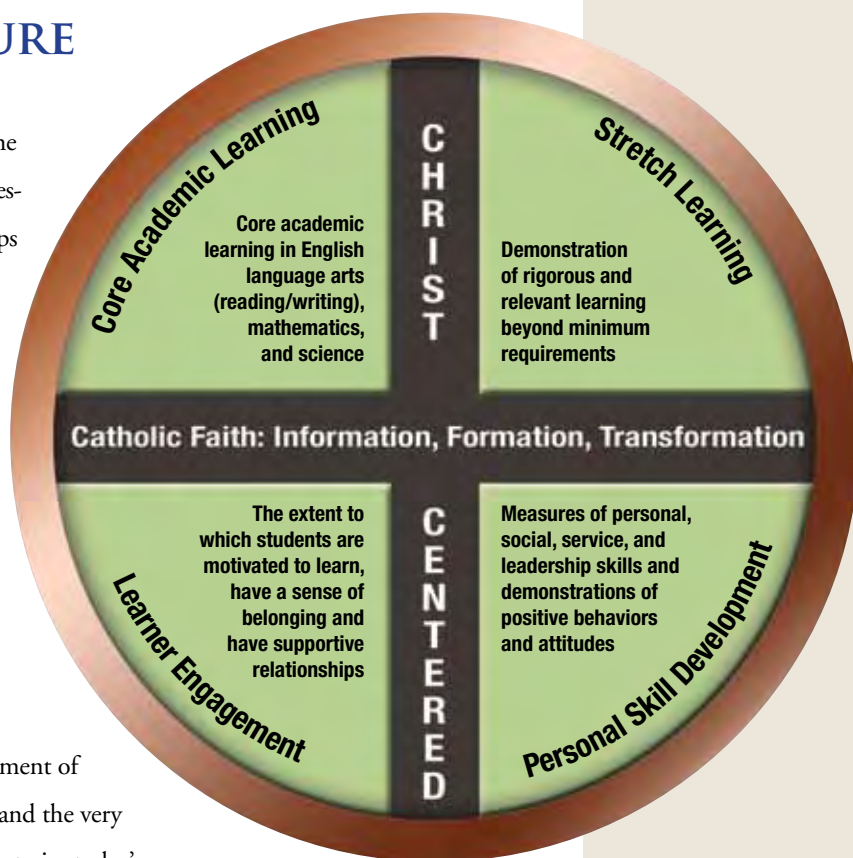
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ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Keeping faith in mind

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