



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
DIOCESE *of* DES MOINES

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023



"Education is not about knowing things or taking lessons but about being able to use three lingos: those of the head, the heart, and the hands... learning so that you can think about what you feel and do, can feel what you think and do, and can do what you feel and think. Unity within a person."

Pope Francis

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



As we reflect on the past year, I am thrilled to share with you our Annual Report—a testament to the extraordinary journey and collective endeavors that have propelled us in our pursuit of faith-based education, academic excellence, and a closely connected community.

Faith is the guiding light that shapes our curriculum, fostering compassion, integrity, and service in our students. Each of our schools strives to ensure faith remains an integral part of character formation, empowering young minds to navigate the world with grace and conviction.

Throughout this year, we've embraced innovation in teaching and harnessed cutting-edge technology, fostering an environment that nurtures curiosity, critical thinking, and comprehensive development for all our students. Witnessing our students reach remarkable heights and face challenges with unwavering determination fills me with immense joy. Their outstanding achievements across academics, arts, athletics, and community service stand as a tribute to the exceptional guidance and dedication provided by our team of educators, staff members, and school administrators.

Our school administrators and classroom teachers continue to be the backbone of our success, igniting passion and creativity while wholeheartedly nurturing young minds. Their commitment to each student's growth shapes an environment of excellence throughout our diocese, serving as an endless source of inspiration.

I cannot overlook the invaluable support our schools receive from our wider community—the pastors, parishioners, school families, and supporters. Your encouragement, volunteerism, financial support, and collaborative efforts have played a pivotal role in establishing a robust system of Catholic education across the Diocese of Des Moines.

As we celebrate our collective accomplishments, let's embrace the opportunities for growth and advancement in the upcoming year. Our commitment remains steadfast—to provide every student with a world-class education rooted in Catholic teachings, preparing them for success in an ever-evolving world.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you who has contributed to making this year an unequivocal success. Together, let us continue to inspire and empower the next generation of disciples, leaders, thinkers, and innovators.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna Bishop, ED.S
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

OUR MISSION

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines are collaborative communities of spiritual formation and academic excellence, where students grow in faith and wisdom and emerge as responsible citizens dedicated to the practice of life-long discipleship.

Located throughout the Diocese of Des Moines, our 16 schools challenge students to aim higher academically, spiritually and personally. We believe Catholic education should be rooted in **FAITH**, focused on **EXCELLENCE** and supported by a caring **COMMUNITY** while also providing the best **VALUE** to our families.

OUR SCHOOLS

CHRIST THE KING
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
2 YO, PS3, PK4, TK, K-8
Des Moines

DOWLING CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL
9-12
West Des Moines

HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PS3, K4, K-8
Des Moines

HOLY TRINITY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PS3, PK4, TK, K-8
Des Moines

OUR LADY'S LITTLE
LEARNERS
PS3, PK4, TK
Ankeny

SACRED HEART
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PS3, PK4, TK, K-8
West Des Moines

SAINT ALBERT
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Birth-2, PS3, PK4, K-12
Council Bluffs

SHELBY COUNTY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PK4, K-5
Harlan

ST. ANTHONY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PS3, PK4, K-8
Des Moines

ST. AUGUSTIN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PK4, TK, K-8
Des Moines

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PS3, PK4, K-8
Des Moines

ST. JOSEPH
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PK4, K-8
Des Moines

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
K-8
Ankeny

ST. MALACHY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PS3, PK4, K-8
Creston

ST. PATRICK
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PK4, K-8
Perry

ST. THERESA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PK4, K-8
Des Moines

ST. PIUS X
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PS3, PK4, TK, K-8
Urbandale

OUR TEAM



MOST REV. WILLIAM M. JOENSEN, PhD
Bishop, Diocese of Des Moines



DONNA BISHOP, EdS
Superintendent of Schools



DENISE MULCAHY, MSE
Director of Teaching and Learning



ANNE FRANKLIN, PhD
Director of Professional Development



NICOLE CASTILLO WALLER, BA
Director of Multicultural Programming



NICOLE EVANS, BS, MHA, CCSL
Director of Marketing and Enrollment

OUR SCHOOLS BY THE NUMBERS

6315

PS-12 Students
NCEA school reports Oct. 2022

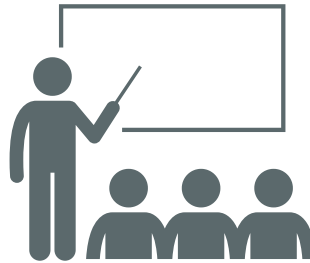


2.5% 

Enrollment Growth
Compared to 0.3 percent nationally. (1)

39%

School Diversity



13:1

Classroom Ratio



\$3.3M+

Provided in Tuition Assistance

70K+

Service Hours
Provided

1/3

of Faculty hold
Advanced Degrees



\$627K+

Awarded in Grant
Funding

Source:

1. National Catholic Education Association. 2022-2023 Catholic School Enrollment. Retrieved December 10, 2023 from https://nceatalk.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/23_NCEA_Data_Brief_FINAL_2022-2023_Catholic_School_Enrollment_v9.pdf.

SCHOOL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



St. Joseph Catholic School announced its expansion to its campus to serve a growing student population and parish community. Project plans included the addition of two new early childhood classrooms, three new middle school classrooms, a large multipurpose space that serves as a parish activity center, a school gymnasium, and an elevator to improve building accessibility. The new addition opened to the public in November 2023.

Holy Family alum Officer Alberto Marquez and fellow officer Daobandon Meunsaveng introduced Holy Family students to police dog, Bero. Marquez credits Holy Family with his decision to enter public service.



St. Augustin Kindergarten teacher Angie Patti was recognized by Iowa PBS as part of their RAISE UP campaign for her intentional efforts to teach kindness in the classroom and make a positive difference in her students.

Governor Kim Reynolds visited St. Anthony Catholic School where students in the Two Way Language Immersion track shared their experiences. In 2023 Reynolds signed the Student First Act, enabling eligible Iowa K-12 students attending accredited private schools to access state education funding via Education Savings Accounts (ESAs).



Shelby County Catholic School unveiled a brand new school website featuring online tour scheduling and enrollment, teacher bios, and high-impact student photos. All designed to help the school grow enrollment. Check out the new site at shelbycountycatholic.org.



A FAITH-FILLED ENVIRONMENT



"The teachers and staff are awesome, the Catholic faith is present in the classroom, there's a positive culture within the school, and students are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and respect."

— St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Parents

FAITH HIGHLIGHTS

Within the fabric of education at the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools lies an integrated approach where faith is seamlessly woven into the daily curriculum. Through dedicated faith formation initiatives, our schools actively nurture a deepening relationship with Christ, fostering an understanding of how to embody the Gospel values. This holistic approach equips students with a sense of purpose rooted in compassion and service to others, ensuring they emerge as well-rounded individuals committed to living out the principles of love and selflessness.



Our student population is 89 percent Catholic, and we welcome students of all faith traditions. Students in grades PK-12 participated in more than 700 school Masses throughout the school year to join together in prayer.



Our schools develop character through an education rooted in faith that fosters service to God and others. During the 2022-2023 school year, students participated in service learning and collectively, provided more than 70,000 hours of volunteerism throughout the community.



St. Pius X joyously unveiled its new interactive outdoor prayer space, a living symbol of the Catholic faith open to the entire school and parish community. This serene sanctuary features a stunning garden, seating area, and a stone path rosary, inviting peaceful contemplation for all.

"The retreats are amazing and led by a great faith formation team. The teachers live their faith each day through experiences within the school and community."

— St. Theresa Catholic School and DCHS Parent

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



"STEM is not just available to every student, it is part of the curriculum. Not after school and not at additional cost. Kids are working with coding and programming. They are educated for what's yet to come."

— Shelby County Catholic School Parent

EXCELLENCE HIGHLIGHTS

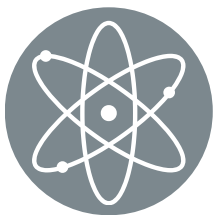
From preschool through high school, Diocese of Des Moines students thrive in caring and creative environments with smaller class sizes that teach BIG subjects. Our teachers don't just instruct; they inspire – challenging students to aim higher academically, spiritually and personally. By igniting this passion for continuous growth and self-discovery, our students are empowered to embrace their full potential and emerge as confident, compassionate, and well-rounded individuals poised to make a meaningful impact in their communities and beyond.



The diocese celebrated faculty and staff for their milestone years of service, totaling an impressive 1,705 years collectively. We are grateful to these remarkable educators for their unwavering commitment to Catholic education, fostering an environment where children flourish and grow.



Holy Trinity Catholic School was recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community (PLC) at Work® by Solution Tree for its sustained success in raising student achievement. PLCs are schools where educators acknowledge that the key to improved student learning is ongoing, job-embedded education for the adults serving those students.



Five schools successfully secured grants exceeding \$280,000, aiming to implement the state's new computer science standards while bolstering existing STEM programs. These grants have been instrumental in facilitating the integration of cutting-edge curricula, acquiring state-of-the-art devices, and enabling comprehensive professional development opportunities for educators.

“While our foundation is spiritual, our school also has a reputation for academic excellence. Excellence at Sacred Heart School could mean providing additional support for a student who is struggling academically or providing more challenging work for other students.”

— Sacred Heart Catholic School Parents

EXCELLENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools participate in the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP). ISASP is a standards-based assessment designed to inform schools and families on how students perform on the Iowa Core Academic Standards. Students performing at the proficient level demonstrate adequate competency in the knowledge, skills, and abilities that meet the requirements for their grade level associated with academic readiness for college and a career in the subject area.

2023 Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP)

	State of Iowa (Percent Proficient)	Diocese of Des Moines (Percent Proficient)
5th Grade English Language Arts	69%	81%
5th Grade Math	71%	77%
5th Grade Science	63%	73%
8th Grade English Language Arts	76%	93%
8th Grade Math	72%	85%
8th Grade Science	66%	83%
10th Grade English Language Arts	73%	91%
10th Grade Math	66%	82%
10th Grade Science	62%	79%

EXCELLENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools also applies the use of a standards-based evaluation tool from the Iowa Department of Education, FASTBridge, for grades K-5 to identify student goals for learning and provide individualized student support to ensure these goals are met. This screening and early identification of student needs increases the speed of intervention and supports a building-wide multi-tiered system of supports. These assessments help teachers better understand student progress and needs. Moreover, this additional layer of data allows teachers to focus on essential skills and better track student growth.

2023 Diocese of Des Moines FASTBridge Scores

	On Track	Aggressive Growth*
K-1 Reading	67.83% (Early Reading Skills)**	17.76% (Early Reading Skills)
K-1 Math	82.64% (Early Math Skills)**	16.31% (Early Math Skills)
2-5 Reading	73.51% (Comprehension) 40.9% of those scoring at the advanced level 73% (Fluency) 22.62% of those scoring at the advanced level	15.65% (Comprehension) 26.76% (Fluency)
2-5 Math	73.05% (Comprehension) 35.83% of those scoring at the advanced level 76.19% (Fact Fluency)	13.18% (Comprehension) 26.33% (Fact Fluency)

*Aggressive growth is defined as a score increase from fall to spring greater than 75 percent or more of their peers nationally.

**FASTBridge earlyMath and earlyReading assessments do not assign an “advanced” designation for grades K-1.

EXCELLENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Students in grades 6-8 participate in the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. This assessment measures achievement and growth in math, reading, and language usage, providing teachers with data to help inform instructional strategies and create an individualized learning experience for each student.

2023 Diocese of Des Moines NWEA MAP Scores

	Diocese of Des Moines (Percentile Ranking)
8th Grade Reading	75th Percentile
8th Grade Language	79th Percentile
8th Grade Math	71st Percentile

Overall, students in grades 6, 7, and 8 scored multiple points above the national average in all subjects (math, reading, and language) as measured by the NWEA MAP Assessment.

"Small one on one classes. Affordable tuition and a school where faith and family comes first. Best decision was enrolling my son!"

— St. Patrick Catholic School Parent

A CARING COMMUNITY



"We have been impressed by the dedication of the staff, teachers, parents and students. Our children have been welcome with open hearts and as a family we have enjoyed St. Pius X."

— St. Pius X Catholic Parent

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Our schools partner with parishes and parents to create a welcoming environment that will help your child feel secure and accepted and a part of something so much more than just academics – a community of faith where the bonds of friendship and trust will last a lifetime. We also help students discover their soul, build self-esteem, cultivate interests and develop the skills and empathy needed to create a better world.



The Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools serve students and families from all faith backgrounds, ethnicities, races, and cultures. Sixteen languages are spoken at schools across the diocese and our student body is 39 percent diverse compared to 23.1 percent (1) among Catholic schools nationally.



St. Luke the Evangelist built a strong sense of community and enduring friendships across grade levels. The school's Faith Families unite students in a shared exploration of the Catholic faith while fostering enduring connections that extend far beyond the classroom.



The Bishop's Celebration of Catholic Schools featured alumna Anne Nizzi-Clark '87, her husband Brent, and their children who are also alumni of our PK-12 diocesan schools: Blake '18, Caitlin '20, and Colin '23. The family shared how Catholic education helped shape their success in life.

"The school has innovative teachers, small class sizes and a community that not only supports the students, but the parents. Students have opportunities to provide service to their community and faith-based values are core to Holy Trinity's mission."

— Holy Trinity Catholic School Parent

Source:

1. National Catholic Education Association. 2022-2023 Catholic School Enrollment. Retrieved December 10, 2023 from https://nceatalk.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/23_NCEA_Data_Brief_FINAL_2022-2023_Catholic_School_Enrollment_v9.pdf.

THE BEST VALUE IN EDUCATION



"We are so glad we've chosen St. Augustin's to educate our boys. You will not find a more dedicated principal. The community is welcoming and involved."

— St. Augustin Catholic School Parents

VALUE HIGHLIGHTS

Investing in your child's education is about more than a number— it's about a teaching approach that focuses on your child's mind, body and soul. It's about having the best educators with challenging lesson plans and new technologies at your disposal. It's about a creative, disciplined and welcoming environment where a focus on social justice, service and leadership is central to each student's experience. It's about your child growing and flourishing in every part of their life – not just test scores.



In 2023, one hundred percent of the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic high school students graduated — 363 students in total. In addition, 98 percent of graduates planned to continue their education, with members of the 2023 graduating class awarded college scholarships totaling more than \$11.5 million.



Approximately 90 percent of eighth-grade graduates continued their education at a Diocese of Des Moines Catholic High School. Retention for grades K-8 was 93 percent.



The diocese announced newly expanded tuition assistance made available through the Tuition Assistance Endowment established with the Ignite Campaign. With these added tuition assistance resources, an additional 15 percent of currently enrolled families qualified for tuition assistance.

"The amount of involvement the staff has with our daughter is amazing. Faith is brought into all areas of her education and has brought great joy to us as we watch our child grow. I highly recommend Christ the King for small class size; no child is forgotten or falls through the cracks, and character, values and emotional IQ are taught as young as 1st grade."

— Christ the King Catholic School Parent

FINANCIAL DATA

We greatly appreciate and understand the financial sacrifice families make to provide their children with an education at a Diocese of Des Moines Catholic School. However, tuition only covers a portion of the cost of educating a student at our schools. The remaining amount is supported by parish subsidy, private donations, and tuition assistance resources.

COST TO EDUCATE VS. COST OF TUITION

	AVERAGE COST TO EDUCATE A STUDENT	AVERAGE TUITION BEFORE TUITION ASSISTANCE <i>Based on parishioner rate.</i>
K-8	\$8,939/student	\$3,892/year <i>Compared to \$4,840 nationally. (2)</i>
9-12	\$14,024/student	\$8,986/year <i>Compared to \$11,240 nationally. (2)</i>

This tuition investment goes towards high-caliber educators, enhanced learning experiences (such as STEM and Spanish immersion), the latest technology, and moral and emotional education for each student.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

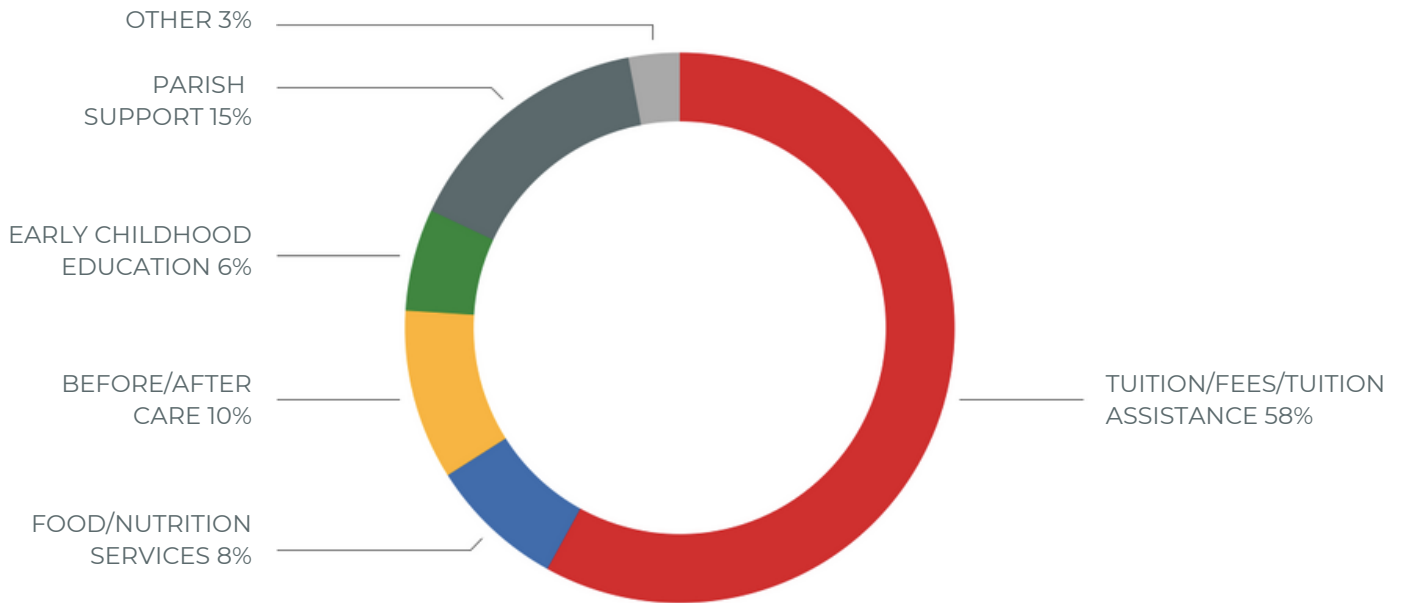
All of our schools offer tuition solutions and assistance programs — no family is turned away if they cannot pay full tuition. In 2022-2023, 37 percent of students received tuition assistance from the Catholic Tuition Organization totaling over \$3.3 million (1). The average award was \$1,638 per student.

Sources:

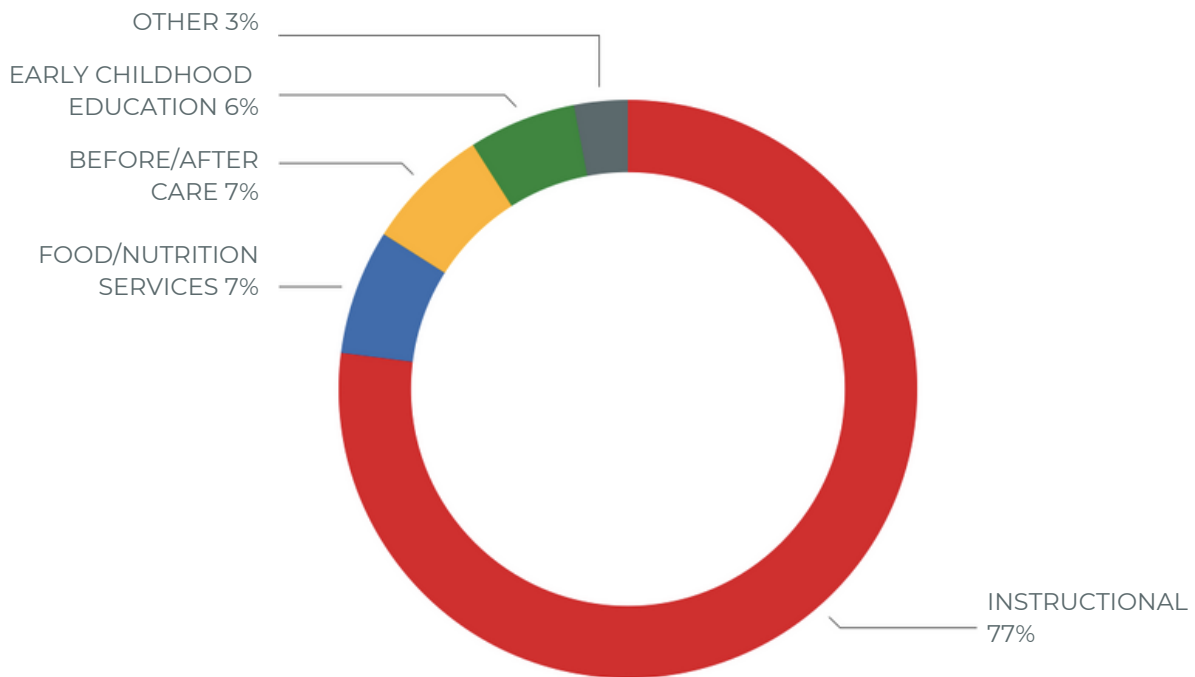
1. Catholic Tuition Organization. (2022). Annual Report. Retrieved December 10, 2023 from https://ctodsmdiocese.org/pdf/2023/Annual_Report_2022_web.pdf.
2. US News. (2023, April 18). Considering Catholic School? Here's What to Know. US News. Retrieved from [National Catholic Education Association. 2022-2023 Catholic School Enrollment. Retrieved December 10, 2023 from https://nceatalk.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/23_NCEA_Data_Brief_FINAL_2022-2023_Catholic_School_Enrollment_v9.pdf.](https://nceatalk.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/23_NCEA_Data_Brief_FINAL_2022-2023_Catholic_School_Enrollment_v9.pdf)

FINANCIAL DATA

INCOME BY SOURCE (as a percent of total income*):



EXPENSES BY SOURCE (as a percent of total income*):



*NOTE: Percentage of income and expenses are an approximation based on aggregated financial data for our schools. Individual school percentages may vary.



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Des Moines, IA 50309
dmdiocese.org/catholic-schools