



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

PRESSRELEASE

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St. Augustin's food program is recognized at White House reception

St. Augustin School and its food lunch program recently earned the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold with Distinction Award, the highest accomplishment a school can achieve. St. Augustin School and Knoxville Middle School are the only schools in the state of Iowa to be honored with the Gold with Distinction Award.

In honor of the award, St. Augustin Principal Nancy O'Neill Dowdle and Food Service Director Pam Moore will attend a celebration reception at the White House with First Lady Michelle Obama on Monday, October 17.

The HealthierUS School Challenge is the cornerstone of the *Let's Move!* campaign to solve the childhood obesity epidemic. As part of St. Augustin's effort, healthy items are featured on their menus and education and physical activity are emphasized.

Moore says educating students and getting them excited about eating healthy all while providing nutritious food in a creative way is a passion of hers. This year, she created the cafeteria theme of, "Eat what God puts on the Earth." The cafeteria purchases fresh fruits and vegetables from Iowa farmers when they are in session through the Farm to School program. Moore and her staff are demonstrating how tastefully fruits and vegetables can be prepared so all

children will love to eat them. They are video recording themselves as they prepare easy, healthy snacks and serve small samples to students to try. These videos are played on television screens in the cafeteria and recipes are provided so students can learn how to make them at home.

“I applaud Pam and the entire food service staff here at St. Augustin. They work hard to assure our students are provided with nutritious food and education that will benefit the rest of their lives,” said Principal Dr. Nancy O’Neill Dowdle.

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*The Diocese of Des Moines Catholic schools serve more than 6,400 students through its 17 schools.
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