



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

PRESSRELEASE

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Des Moines diocese Catholic high schools excel in ACT scores

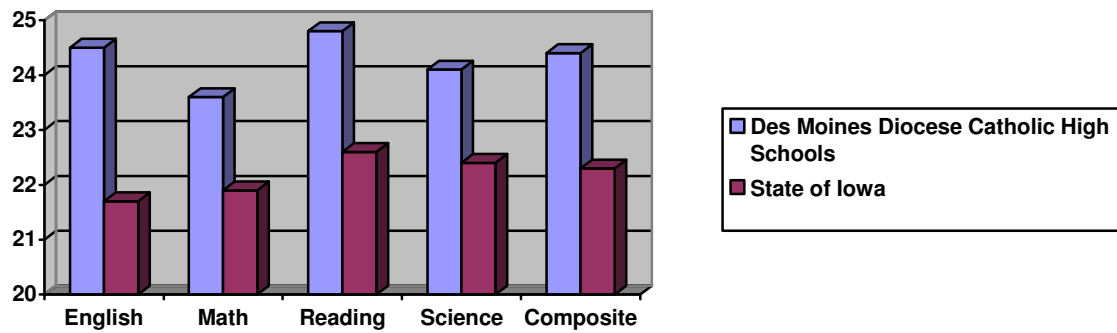
A report released from ACT revealed that students from Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Des Moines achieved a composite score of 24.4 in 2011. Reports that go back to the year 2000, show that the 24.4 composite score is the highest score Diocese of Des Moines Catholic high schools have achieved in the past eleven years.

Des Moines diocese Catholic high schools are consistently scoring higher than state averages in all areas of the ACT exam. Its score of 24.4 compares with Iowa's composite score of 22.3.

The diocese's two high schools are Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines and St. Albert School in Council Bluffs.

Below is a graph that shows the Des Moines diocese Catholic high schools scores in each of the four academic areas compared to state of Iowa averages for 2011.

(more)



The ACT consists of curriculum-based tests of educational development in English, mathematics, reading and science designed to measure the skills needed for success in first year college coursework.

Dowling Catholic High School, which received a composite score of 25, had a student, Shelby Lennon, who earned the top score of 36 on the recent ACT test. Lennon, of West Des Moines, is the daughter of Chris and Jen Lennon. Nationally, while the actual number of students earning a composite score of 36 varies from year to year, **roughly one-tenth of one percent receive a top score.** Among test takers in the high school graduating class of 2010, only 588 of nearly 1.6 million students earned a composite score of 36. Lennon will begin her senior year at Dowling Catholic High School in late-August.

The Des Moines diocese Catholic schools serve over 6,400 students throughout its 17 schools. All schools are fully accredited by the state and focus on proven practices that result in academic success and personal development. The high school graduation rate is 100%.

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The Diocese of Des Moines Catholic schools serve more than 6,400 students through its 17 schools. For more information, go to www.dmdiocese.org and click on "Schools".