



Dear Parents,

We welcome you to a new academic school year with gratitude and excitement! I can hardly believe only a few short weeks remain before we kick off the 2022-23 school year. Over the past few years, we've experienced firsthand how essential it is to provide students with vibrant and consistent educational opportunities. Our students and educators have shown resiliency throughout the pandemic disruptions in their commitment to staying focused with consistent academic gains.

While we know our Catholic schools' academic accolades are impressive, our focus remains on the most significant difference in your family's school choice - building the next generation of faith-filled leaders. "Rooted in Christ" – is our theme for the upcoming school year. Students will experience and grow their relationship with the Lord in all aspects of each day. Faculty will continue to relate concepts and actions through Gospel values as Christ modeled and taught. School administrators' emphasis will continue with Mission and Ministry, flowing from the Diocesan Strategic Plan. Our goal is to engage families by seeking ways to strengthen parents as the first faith educators of their children. We will share resources and opportunities that can be used to deepen an understanding of God's love. When we cannot control the environment around us, we all have our faith to guide and supports us.

One lesson we have learned over these last few years is that the world around us is ever-changing and unpredictable. To help you rest assured, our schools continue to equip your children to thrive in a changing world by providing academic stability in times of uncertainty in safe learning environments. Our administrators have invited local law and emergency personnel into our schools to walk through Emergency Operation Plans to reinforce procedures and identify potential opportunities to enhance school safety and security measures. All our schools have locked entrance doors requiring prior approval before entering, and we continue to practice fire, tornado, and intruder safety drills throughout the year.

There is always something new and exciting happening at our schools. Here is how you can stay up to date with the most current school information, events, and activities:

- Follow us on social media - Facebook @dmidioceseschools, Instagram @dmidioceseschools, and Twitter @CatholicDes
- Check out our [Growing Disciples Newsletter](#)
- Download our [Annual Report](#)
- Read our [Discover the Difference Blogs](#)
- View and share our [video](#)

In closing, I invite you to attend the inaugural Bishop's Celebration of Catholic Schools on Saturday, August 27 at 5:30 p.m. in Indianola, IA. This event unites the diocese in support of the faith formation, excellence, and community our Catholic schools foster. I hope to see you there as we celebrate Catholic education and honor educators from across the diocese. Click [here](#) for more information.

Thank you for believing in us, thank you for entrusting us with your child's faith formation, education, and safety. It is my great honor to serve as your superintendent, and I look forward to seeing you and your children in the fall. May the light of Christ shine upon you and your family throughout the upcoming school year.

In Christ,

Donna Bishop, ED.S
Superintendent of Catholic Schools