"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
May the peace of Christ be with you! As I look back on the 2021-2022 school year, I’m heartened by all that has been achieved by our students, our faculty, and our school communities. I believe the future is bright not only for our students but because of our students. Franklin Roosevelt said, “We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

Our true purpose in Catholic education is to build the next generation of faith-filled leaders, even when we can’t control the environment around us. If there is one lesson we have learned over these last few years, it is that the world around us is ever-changing and unpredictable. I’m proud to share that our schools continue to equip our students to thrive in a changing world by providing academic innovation, stability in times of uncertainty, and a community connected through Christ.

It is my pleasure to share with you our 2021-2022 Annual Report. This report highlights a year of student and school achievements and all that makes the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools incredible learning environments and communities of faith. I hope you will take the time to review this report and celebrate all that has been accomplished during this past academic year.

It is my great honor to serve as your superintendent and I look forward to seeing what unfolds in the next school year. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education throughout the Diocese of Des Moines.

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
PK4, K-8
Des Moines

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

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, Diocese of Des Moines

DENISE MULCAHY, MSE
Director of Teaching and Learning

ANNE FRANKLIN, PhD
Director of Professional Development

NICOLE CASTILLO WALLER, BA
Bilingual Community Outreach Coordinator

NICOLE EVANS, BS, MHA, CCSL
Director of Marketing and Enrollment Management
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR
BY THE NUMBERS

6319
PK-8 Students
*NCEA school reports Sept. 2021

2.6%
Enrollment Growth
*PS-8

31%
School Diversity

12:1
Classroom Ratio

$3.2M+
Provided in Tuition Assistance

703
School Masses

37%
of Faculty hold
Advanced Degrees

$700K+
Awarded in Grant Funding
SCHOOL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

U.S. Navy Commander Quintin James of the USS Iowa submarine visited St. Theresa Catholic School on Jan. 18. James came to see the school’s SeaPerch project, one of many STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs students at the school experience. St. Theresa was the first school in Iowa to implement the SeaPerch program.

St. Patrick first-grade teacher Amy Smith attended the University of Notre Dame's English as a New Language Program and shared best practices on culturally responsive teaching with her colleagues.

Middle School students at St. Malachy Catholic School in Creston explored media arts with the school's new Faith and Film Club. The club formed out of a need to offer live-stream events during the pandemic and has grown to include students interested in creating quality videos and live-stream events.

To showcase our students and faculty and highlight the Catholic school difference, the Catholic Schools Office launched a new recruitment video during Catholic Schools Week. The video has had nearly 6,400 views and counting! Click here to view and share the video with your family and friends.

Seventy-eight students created and submitted artwork for the inaugural Bishop's Celebration of Catholic Schools event. Three student-designed artwork pieces were ultimately selected to print onto note cards given to event participants.
“Faith-based education has always been important to our family, and we are so grateful we chose to be a part of the St. Francis of Assisi community. We are constantly impressed with the dedication of the teachers, administration, faculty, and staff. They strive to offer our children the best combination of religious and academic education in an environment that strengthens their Catholic faith.”

— St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Parents
At Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools, faith is incorporated into the daily curriculum to provide a foundation for success. Faith formation promotes a relationship with Christ and teaches students how to live the Gospel through love and service to others.

Our student population is 88 percent Catholic and we welcome students of all faith traditions. Students in grades PK-12 participated in more than 700 school Masses, and over 400 students received the Holy Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion.

100 percent of students participated in service learning across the Diocese of Des Moines. Collectively, students performed more than 64,000 hours of volunteerism.

Sr. Jude Fitzpatrick, a former school teacher, administrator and superintendent of schools, led a faith retreat for all school administrators. The theme of the day, "Blessed," centered on the Beatitudes and how they connect to the leadership role our administrators hold. Throughout the retreat, administrators engaged in individual, small group, and large group reflection while enjoying the beautiful weather as they shared their faith.

"Our teachers live their faith in the classroom. My daughter attends all-school Mass once a week, but she prays multiple times a day at school. Through social justice and service hours, my children have the opportunity to work with their classmates and teachers to help their fellow neighbors."

— St. Theresa Catholic School Parent
“Having such small classroom sizes, the children can have more one on one with teachers. The faculty and staff are like family and put the children's best interest first.”

— St. Patrick Catholic School Parent
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 challenge students to aim higher in every aspect – academically, spiritually and personally – so they can achieve their full potential.

Holy Trinity, Sacred Heart, St. Francis of Assisi, Shelby County Catholic School, St. Luke the Evangelist, St. Pius X, and Christ the King offered WIN time to enhance student learning. What I Need (WIN) time is a flexible period of time incorporated into the daily school schedule where extra help or enrichment opportunities are available.

Schools across the Diocese of Des Moines were awarded more than $700,000 in grant funding to support academic initiatives, student support programs, early childhood education, technology upgrades, enhanced building security, science equipment, teacher recruitment, and enrollment management.

Science instruction reached new heights when St. Theresa teacher Ronda McCarthy participated in a ZERO-G flight where she conducted a science experiment on microgravity designed by her students.

We live nowhere near St. Anthony School! Yet, every single day we travel from Waukee to the southside so that our three children can attend St. Anthony School and the Spanish Immersion program. In short, the outcomes from the Spanish Immersion program have been incredible!"

— St. Anthony Catholic School Parents
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.

### 2022 Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>State of Iowa (Percent Proficient)</th>
<th>Diocese of Des Moines (Percent Proficient)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXCELLENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools also applies the use of a standards-based evaluation tool, 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.

2022 Diocese of Des Moines FASTBridge Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>On Track</th>
<th>Aggressive Growth*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>K-1 Reading</strong></td>
<td>63% (Early Reading Skills)**</td>
<td>16% (Early Reading Skills)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>K-1 Math</strong></td>
<td>80% (Early Math Skills)**</td>
<td>18% (Early Math Skills)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2-5 Reading</strong></td>
<td>76.1% (Comprehension) 21% of those scoring at the advanced level</td>
<td>31% (Fluency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>76.4% (Fluency) 23% of those scoring at the advanced level</td>
<td>19% (Comprehension)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2-5 Math</strong></td>
<td>74% (Fact Fluency) 39% of those scoring at the advanced level</td>
<td>25% (Fact Fluency)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

2022 Diocese of Des Moines NWEA MAP Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Diocese of Des Moines (Percentile Ranking)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade Reading</td>
<td>73rd Percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade Language</td>
<td>84th Percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade Math</td>
<td>73rd Percentile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
“Saint Albert Catholic is an extension of our family. As a parent, education is obviously my priority, but being able to know so many of the teachers, students and staff who have a hand in my child’s experience solidifies my decision to be a part of this community.”

— Saint Albert Catholic Parent
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 language are spoken at schools across the diocese and our student body is 31 percent diverse.

The Diocese of Des Moines hosted its inaugural Bishop’s Celebration of Catholic Schools. More than 250 supporters of Catholic education attended the event, which raised over $95,000 to support tuition assistance for students attending the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools.

The Saint Albert community came together to comfort the sick when they hosted a fundraiser in support of local individuals facing a cancer diagnosis, including a student from another nearby school. Faculty and staff were on hand to assist with the raffles, silent auction, and half-court shootout. These efforts culminated in $10,000 raised to support the individuals with their fight against cancer.

“Holy Family is like a family that comes together everyday to learn. The small class size helps teachers give individual attention to each student in order to help improve the students' homework, behaviors, and grades.”

— Holy Family Catholic School Parents
"When friends and others ask us why we send our kids to Catholic schools, why pay the money, etc. it’s sometimes difficult to put into words. And suddenly, it’s never been easier to answer that question. The faculty and staff at Sacred Heart showed our school community and central Iowa what makes our Catholic schools so special. You have made a huge impact in their lives and have modeled what it means to be creative, resilient and how to roll up your sleeves, solve a problem and keep on going."

— Sacred Heart 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 2022, one hundred percent of Diocese of Des Moines Catholic high school students graduated, 393 students in total. In addition, members of the 2022 graduating class were awarded college scholarships totaling more than $12.7 million.

Approximately 85 percent of eighth-grade graduates continued their education at a Diocese of Des Moines Catholic High School.

Thirty-two percent of Diocese of Des Moines families received assistance from the Catholic Tuition Organization totaling $3,276,273. This generous support made a Catholic education possible for more than 2,000 students across the diocese. 100 percent of students benefitted from parish-supported tuition grants as the cost of tuition covers a portion of the cost to educate a child at our schools.

“You will NEVER make a better financial investment than that of a solid, Catholic education for your children. Because what they should learn in school is much more than just academics. Catholic school is also about our children learning to be servant leaders who look at the world around them with kind eyes and an open heart. The rewards will benefit them and our communities long after graduation.”

— St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic School Parent
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AVERAGE COST TO EDUCATE A STUDENT AT OUR SCHOOLS</th>
<th>AVERAGE COST OF TUITION BEFORE TUITION ASSISTANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>K-8 SCHOOLS</strong></td>
<td>$7,684/student</td>
<td>$4,224/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9-12 SCHOOLS</strong></td>
<td>$13,110/student</td>
<td>$8,646/year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 2021-2022, 32 percent of students received tuition assistance from the Catholic Tuition Organization totaling over $3.2 million. The average award was $1,638 per student. Additionally, our schools provided need-based scholarships and assistance totaling over $1.2 million.
INCOME BY SOURCE (as a percent of total income*):

- Tuition and Fees: 56%
- Parish Support: 16%
- Fundraising and Grants: 8%
- External Tuition Assistance: 8%
- Other Income: 12%

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

- Instructional: 70%
- Building and Maintenance: 12%
- Programs and Activities: 7%
- Internal Tuition Assistance: 4%
- Other: 7%

*NOTE: Percentage of income and expenses are an approximation based on aggregated self-reported financial data for 15 of our 16 schools. Individual school percentages may vary.