

*Open Doors + Open Arms + Open Hearts*



**ARCHDIOCESE**  
**OF INDIANAPOLIS**  
*The Church in Central and Southern Indiana*



**Celebrate Catholic  
Schools Week 2018**

January 28 –  
February 3  
**#CSW18**



# ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

## Mission Statement of the Office of Catholic Schools

With open doors, open arms, and open hearts, the Office of Catholic Schools supports the formation of young people through holistic, engaging, and academically excellent programming that integrates faith, culture, and life as modeled by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## Vision Statement of the Office of Catholic Schools

Ours will be an archdiocese where every Catholic school community flourishes by having the professional and spiritual leadership it needs to advance the mission of the Church and where every professional is supported, every family is engaged, and every child, regardless of race, culture, socio-economic condition, or learning need is nurtured in mind, body, and spirit.

+ Catholic Schools Week +  
2017-2018 Academic Year

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is a great blessing to celebrate the apostolate of Catholic schools with you!

Our Catholic schools throughout central and southern Indiana are an integral part of the incredible foundation that, by the grace of God and the witness of many generations of the faithful, is our shared inheritance, responsibility, and opportunity.

During the Second Vatican Council, the Holy Father, in union with the bishops of the world, proclaimed that Catholic schools are of the "utmost importance." Indeed, it is "abundantly clear in an unbroken list of statements" from both the Holy See's Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education and from the Bishops of the United States that Catholic schools are "the most effective means available to the Church for the education of children and young people." Our Catholic schools are the "fullest and best" opportunity to "promote the integration of religious truth and values with the rest of life."

With Christ, the Master Teacher, as their Cornerstone, these ministries of hope make the Gospels and the Sacraments a way of life. They continue Christ's own ministry as Priest, Prophet, and King through their worship, faithful teaching, and witness in the world.

Please join me this week in thanking and praying for all those who have made, and who continue to make, the mission of our Catholic schools possible.

Please join me also in praying for the future of this essential apostolate. The Church "earnestly entreats pastors and all the faithful to spare no sacrifice in helping Catholic schools fulfill their function in a continually more perfect way." May our ministry in this generation be a "prophetic choice", ensuring excellent and accessible Catholic schools both for today and for the many tomorrows to come.

Yours in Christ, Our Teacher,

+ *Charles C. Thompson*  
Archbishop Charles C. Thompson



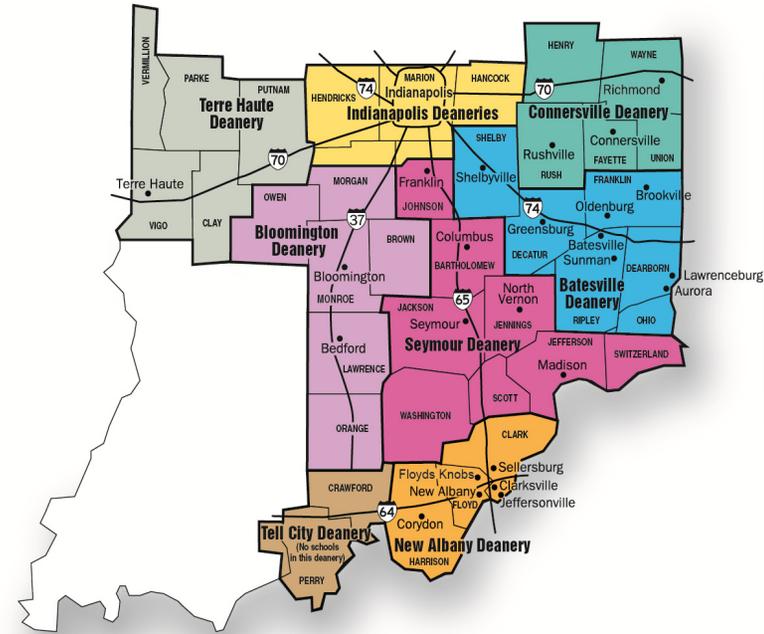
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## Catholic Schools Outside of the Indianapolis Metro Area

<b><u>Batesville Deanery</u></b> St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception (K-8)	<b><u>Bloomington Deanery</u></b> St. Vincent de Paul (PK-8)	<b><u>New Albany Deanery</u></b> Our Lady of Perpetual Help (PK-8)	<b><u>New Albany Deanery</u></b> Holy Family (PK-8)	<b><u>Madison</u></b> Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
<b><u>Aurora</u></b> St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception (K-8)	<b><u>Bedford</u></b> St. Vincent de Paul (PK-8)	<b><u>Clarksville</u></b> Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School (8-12)	<b><u>Sellersburg</u></b> St. John Paul II (PK-7)	<b><u>North Vernon</u></b> St. Mary (PK-8)
<b><u>Batesville</u></b> St. Louis (PK-8)	<b><u>Bloomington</u></b> St. Charles Borromeo (PK-8)	<b><u>Corydon</u></b> St. Joseph (PK-6)	<b><u>Seymour Deanery</u></b> St. Ambrose (PK-8)	<b><u>Seymour</u></b> St. Ambrose (PK-8)
<b><u>Brookville</u></b> St. Michael (PK-8)	<b><u>Connersville Deanery</u></b> St. Gabriel (PK-6)	<b><u>Floyds Knobs</u></b> St. Mary-of-the-Knobs (PK-7)	<b><u>Columbus</u></b> St. Bartholomew (K-8)	<b><u>Terre Haute Deanery</u></b> St. Patrick (PK-8)
<b><u>Greensburg</u></b> St. Mary (PK-8)	<b><u>Connersville</u></b> St. Gabriel (PK-6)	<b><u>Jeffersonville</u></b> Sacred Heart (PK-8)	<b><u>Franklin</u></b> St. Rose of Lima (PK-8)	<b><u>Private School</u></b> Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception (9-12)
<b><u>Lawrenceburg</u></b> St. Lawrence (PK-8)	<b><u>Richmond</u></b> Seton Catholic Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)			
<b><u>Shelbyville</u></b> St. Joseph (PK-5)	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (PK-6)			
<b><u>Sunman</u></b> St. Nicholas (K-8)	<b><u>Rushville</u></b> St. Mary (PK-6)			



# ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS Catholic Schools

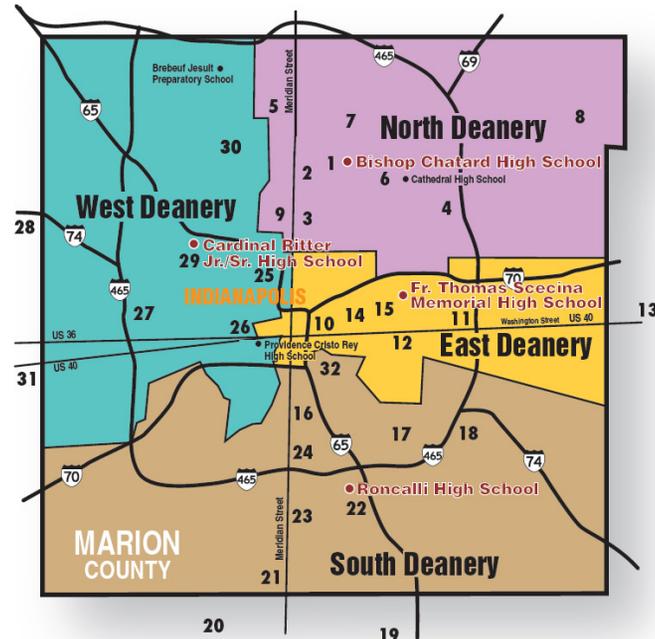


## Catholic Schools Within the Indianapolis Metro Area

<b><u>Indianapolis North Deanery</u></b> + Bishop Chatard High School (9-12) 1. Christ the King (K-8) 2. Immaculate Heart of Mary (K-8) 3. St. Joan of Arc (PK-8) 4. St. Lawrence (PK-8) 5. St. Luke (K-8) 6. St. Matthew (PK-8) 7. St. Pius X (K-8) 8. St. Simon the Apostle (PK-8) 9. St. Thomas Aquinas (K-8)	<b><u>Indianapolis East Deanery</u></b> + Father Thomas Seccina Memorial High School (9-12) 10. *Holy Cross Central (PK-8) 11. Holy Spirit (PK-8) 12. Our Lady of Lourdes (PK-8) 13. St. Michael (PK-8) 14. *St. Philip Neri (PK-8) 15. St. Therese Little Flower (PK-8)	<b><u>Indianapolis South Deanery</u></b> + Roncalli High School (9-12) 16. *Central Catholic (PK-8) 17. Holy Name (PK-8) 18. Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (PK-8) 19. Our Lady of the Greenwood (PK-8) 20. SS. Francis and Clare (PK-8) 21. St. Barnabas (PK-8) 22. St. Jude (K-8) 23. St. Mark the Evangelist (PK-8) 24. St. Roch (PK-8)	<b><u>Indianapolis West Deanery</u></b> + Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School (7-12) 25. *Holy Angels (PK-6) 26. *St. Anthony (PK-8) 27. St. Christopher (PK-6) 28. St. Malachy (PK-8) 29. St. Michael-St. Gabriel (PK-8) 30. St. Monica (PK-8) 31. St. Susanna (PK-8)	<b><u>Indianapolis Private Schools</u></b> 32. Lumen Christi (PK-12) + Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School (9-12) + Cathedral High School (9-12) + Providence Cristo Rey High School (9-12)
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\* Notre Dame ACE Academies  
+ HS name is listed on map

## GREATER INDIANAPOLIS



Visit <http://oce.archindy.org/catholic-schools/school-locator-info.aspx> for links to school specific information.

# Schools of the Gospel: Schools of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty

Dear Friends,

The ministry of our Catholic schools is itself a prayer of both thanksgiving and petition in a world that is at the same time abundantly blessed and tremendously in need. As a people of faith, we know that God's many blessings are also opportunities and responsibilities. We are called to ensure that all persons, from every walk of life, have every opportunity to become who God is calling them to be.

Our Catholic school ministries make this possible by being communities that live the conviction stated so beautifully by Pope Francis: "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free."

We must discern what this joy and freedom could mean in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities—freedom from ignorance, judgment, and bigotry; freedom from poverty; freedom from isolation, loneliness, and addiction; freedom from abuse and neglect; freedom from crime and violence; freedom from fear and sin; freedom to become who we actually are, daughters and sons of the Living God, sisters and brothers in Christ.

How can we commit ourselves to live this joy and freedom? How can our school ministries invite families, young people, faculty and staff members, and entire communities into this life of the Gospel?

Simply stated, evangelization is the first and most important task of the Catholic school. These ministries of hope proclaim the love, mercy, and grace of God. In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis teaches us what this means: "Proclaiming Christ means showing that to believe in and to follow Him is not only something right and true, but also something beautiful, capable of filling life with new splendor and profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties. There is an inseparable bond between truth, goodness, and beauty."



Furthermore, it cannot be denied that these faith-filled principles of school ministry have practical and positive outcomes in our world. Did you know that graduates of Catholic schools are more likely to vote, earn higher wages, be civically engaged, be more committed to service as adults, and even demonstrate more tolerance of diverse views than their peers? Research over the past two decades continues to illustrate the favorable results produced through Catholic education and formation.

My friends, it is precisely because we are both abundantly blessed and tremendously in need that Catholic schools are so important. We need schools of the Gospel—schools of truth, goodness, and beauty—that bring joy and freedom into our world.

This hope is the legacy of all those generations who have gone before us in faith and is mobilized every day by all those who make the mission of our Catholic schools possible. By the grace of God and the commitment of so many, our Catholic schools continue to thrive. By that same grace and commitment, there are opportunities and responsibilities to improve our shared ministry and to increase the reach of the apostolate of Catholic schools throughout our 13,000+ square miles!

Many thanks to Archbishop Thompson and all who support our Catholic schools as essential ministries of our Church. Through your prayer, leadership, ministry, volunteerism, and financial support, our young people are grounded in the very principles of our faith that will aid them in proclaiming their love for God and all that is true, good, and beautiful.

May God bless each of you and all those who serve in Catholic schools today and in the future.

Very Truly Yours,

*Gina Kuntz Fleming*

Gina Kuntz Fleming  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

## "Band of Gold"

By: Leigh Anne (Senior at Shawe Memorial High School; Madison, IN)

Being a Catholic high school student has given me so many opportunities for which I am truly grateful. The time that I have been at Shawe has not only made me grow into a better person, it has made me more aware to not take things for granted. It has allowed me to stop and realize that I am incredibly lucky to go to a Catholic high school. We are a family.



Being part of Shawe's "Band of Gold" has definitely been a major part of my high school experience. I have gained so many memories and so many new friends from all grade levels. I am grateful for band because, throughout the



years, I have learned many things: my potential, my weaknesses, and my character. I have learned to have a more positive attitude, to have resilience, and to never give up.

When I was younger, I always looked up to the older students and thought that I wanted to be like them. I always try to keep this in mind in order to be a better role model for the younger people in the band, because whether I like it or not, they watch and learn from what I do. Being a senior really makes it important to me to be a good role model.

Band means everything to me, and I could not be more thankful to the people who have made it such an amazing four years.

## Ministry of the Office of Catholic Schools

The Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) assists the Archbishop of Indianapolis in his apostolic ministry throughout central and southern Indiana. The following list outlines some of the work OCS undertakes to ensure parishes and schools have the support they need to make our shared mission as successful as possible.

- ◆ Support the Archbishop and his leadership team in fulfilling the overall mission of the Church
- ◆ Support Pastors, Deans, Principals, and Presidents in local continuous improvement
- ◆ Provide spiritual formation and professional development
- ◆ Partner with universities to enhance faith-based teaching and learning
- ◆ Network with USCCB, NCEA, INPEA, other similar organizations, and other (arch) dioceses to continuously improve ministry
- ◆ Support School Boards/Commissions
- ◆ Coordinate and lead archdiocesan-wide and local school accreditation
- ◆ Provide legal and personnel support
- ◆ Assist in the hiring and evaluation / development of Catholic school leaders
- ◆ Foster the development of future leaders
- ◆ Provide educator induction and formation
- ◆ Support the Notre Dame ACE Academies, the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), and St. Mary's Child Center
- ◆ Administer TCE Grants/Loans
- ◆ Participate in the vetting of Archdiocesan Grants to school ministries
- ◆ Advise and consult on capital campaigns involving Catholic schools
- ◆ Support local efforts to recruit and retain students and families
- ◆ Support local advancement and development efforts to ensure the viability and vitality of school ministries
- ◆ Engage in legislative advocacy to support students and families



### Members of the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Commission

- ◆ Derek Redelman, Chair
- ◆ Kenith Britt
- ◆ Loraine Brown
- ◆ Bill Fanelli
- ◆ Kevin Johnson
- ◆ Andy Kocher
- ◆ Mike McGinley
- ◆ Ukamaka Oruche
- ◆ Bernie Paradise
- ◆ Msgr. Joseph Schaedel
- ◆ Tony Schafer
- ◆ David Wolf, *DDS*

## Recognizing Outstanding Archdiocesan Catholic School Educators

Each year, the Office of Catholic Schools recognizes outstanding Catholic school leaders who exemplify our shared ministry.

### **Rev. Wilfred “Sonny” Day—Pastor, St. John the Baptist Parish (Starlight, IN)**



Ordained on May 7, 1976, Fr. Day has been a true champion of Catholic education throughout his ministry. Whether it has been in his role as a guidance counselor and teacher at Our Lady of Providence High School in his early career or as Dean of the New Albany Deanery and member of Providence’s Board, Fr. Day has been extraordinary in his service to and support of Catholic schools.

### **Leah Massingale—Teacher, St. Michael Catholic School (Greenfield, IN)**



As a middle school science teacher at St. Michael Catholic School in Greenfield for the past nineteen years, Leah has been a model of servant leadership. She helps her students to be curious about science and the world around them and is always looking for more information and updated teaching strategies. “It is my joy as a science teacher to show my students the wonders of God’s creation.”

### **Nancy Buening—Principal, St. Mary Catholic School (Greensburg, IN)**



In the Spring of 2017, Nancy Buening received an NCEA *Lead. Learn. Proclaim.* Award! Nancy was selected from more than 150,000 teachers, administrators, diocesan leaders, and members of organizations dedicated to the nation’s Catholic schools. Nancy has a long history with St. Mary’s: she attended the school, was married at the Church, taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and served as interim principal. After becoming principal, Nancy was an instrumental member of the team that planned and relocated St. Mary’s to a new location. She expanded the school to include a junior high, and enrollment continues to grow.

## “I can get three “F”s without getting into trouble”

*By: Rosie (5th Grader at Nativity Catholic School; Indianapolis, IN)*



What does a Catholic school mean to me? A Catholic school means I can get three “F”s without getting into trouble.

What are the three “F”s?

It starts with **F**aith. At my Catholic school my faith continues to grow each day with the Lord! Having religion class supports my spiritual growth.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> “F” is for **F**amily. At my Catholic school, we are one big family. Our family grows each year with new members that share in the same values.

The last “F” is for **F**riends. Having the same friends at a Catholic school builds a lifetime of memories.

These three “F”s at my Catholic school set my foundation for life!



## “It has brought joy to me like no school has ever done”

*By: Dre (5th Grader at Nativity Catholic School; Indianapolis, IN)*

I love Nativity because it gives us freedom. Nativity Catholic School is challenging, and our teachers push us to reach our goals.

I have been at Nativity for three years, and it has brought joy to me like no school has ever done! I like it because our community works hard and really well together, and we get treated with respect.



Ever since I have been at Nativity I have gained strength and power. This gives me the courage to stand up for my family and friends.

## *In a Changing Church, All Are Welcome!*

By: Rusty Albertson (Principal of St. Mark Catholic School; Indianapolis, IN)



Throughout the last nine years, St. Mark Catholic School has grown from 178 students to its current population of 369 students. Our student demographics have changed to reflect the southside community. In 2009-2010, 6% of the school's population was made up of students from minority backgrounds. For 2017-2018, our minority population has increased to 50%. This includes 36% Asian, 8% Hispanic, 3% Bi-racial, and 3% African American. These changes also reflect our current church population.

As our student population has increased and become more diverse, our academic excellence has also increased. Teachers and staff have developed individualized curriculum to meet students' needs. St. Mark Catholic School received an "A" grade from the Indiana Department of Education, mainly based on student growth on ISTEP+.



Students from all backgrounds, representing nineteen countries and speaking sixteen different languages, come together each day to become closer to God in prayer and in service to others. While diversity is prevalent, our students and staff only see each other as sisters and brothers in Christ. St. Mark Catholic School is a place where the spirit embodies our faith, and all are welcome!

## *Discipline, Values, and Faith for Life*

By: Katie Butt Beckort (Class of '95; Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. HS; Clarksville, IN)

My experience at Our Lady of Providence High School changed my life. It led me down a blessed path to join the Catholic Church, and I am so thankful to raise my children Catholic. My children currently attend Holy Family Catholic School and will be able to enroll in my beloved *alma mater*, where they too will find discipline, values, and faith for life.

**Discipline** is one of the first life lessons Catholic school taught me. The teachers and principals at Catholic schools care about each child's character. They make it a point to pay attention to each child's behavior and not only mold them into a smart person, but a kind person.

**Values** is another thing my Catholic school gave me. Because of my Catholic education, I learned to appreciate the little things in life and to be thankful for all the blessings I have. The values I learned at Providence shaped me to be the



strong person I currently am and inspire me to grow and better myself. This has allowed me to better guide my own children and exemplify true values to them.

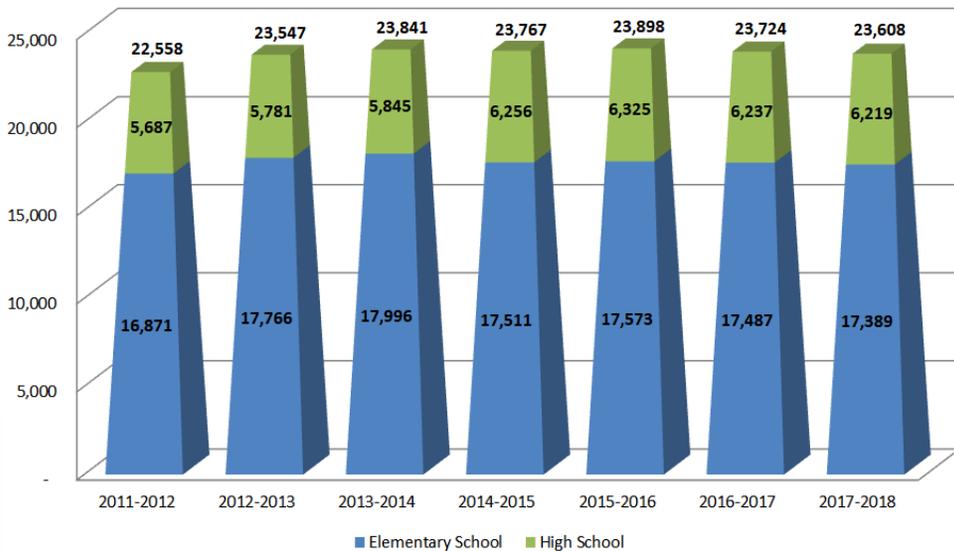
**Faith** is the most important thing I took away from my Catholic education. I did not automatically believe in Catholicism, mainly because I was raised Protestant. But over the six years of attending Providence, I grew to love the religion. Everything I learned in my religion classes meant more to me than anything else, and I am still fortunate to keep in touch with one of my favorite teachers, who was also my religion teacher. Learning how to be a good person and show love to others every day are lessons that last a lifetime.

# Archdiocesan Catholic School Enrollment Data

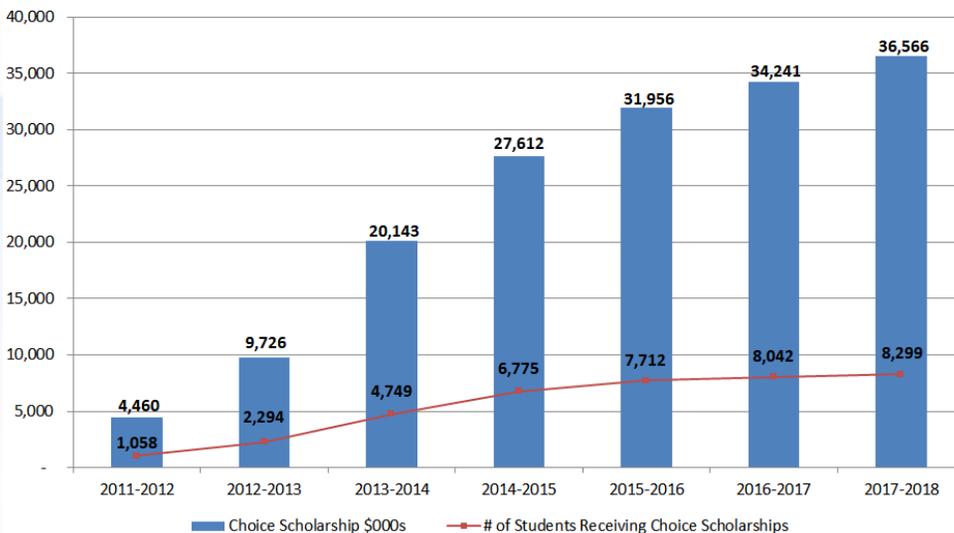
## *Incredible Foundations*

Each number represents names, faces, and stories from every walk of life throughout central and southern Indiana. Thanks to the ministry and commitment of so many generations, thousands of families have faith-filled partners in the hopes and dreams that they share for their children.

### Catholic Elementary and High School Enrollment



### Choice Scholarship Trend



### Races and Ethnicities Represented in Our Catholic Schools

Academic Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
African Am - #	1,597	1,587	1,662	1,681	1,645
African Am - %	6.7%	6.7%	7.0%	7.1%	7.0%
Hispanic - #	1,780	1,974	2,513	2,668	3,046
Hispanic - %	7.5%	8.3%	10.5%	11.2%	12.9%
Other R/E - #	1,617	1,743	1,767	1,610	2,022
Other R/E - %	6.8%	7.3%	7.4%	6.8%	8.6%
White - #	18,847	18,463	17,956	17,765	16,895
White - %	79.1%	77.7%	75.1%	74.9%	71.6%

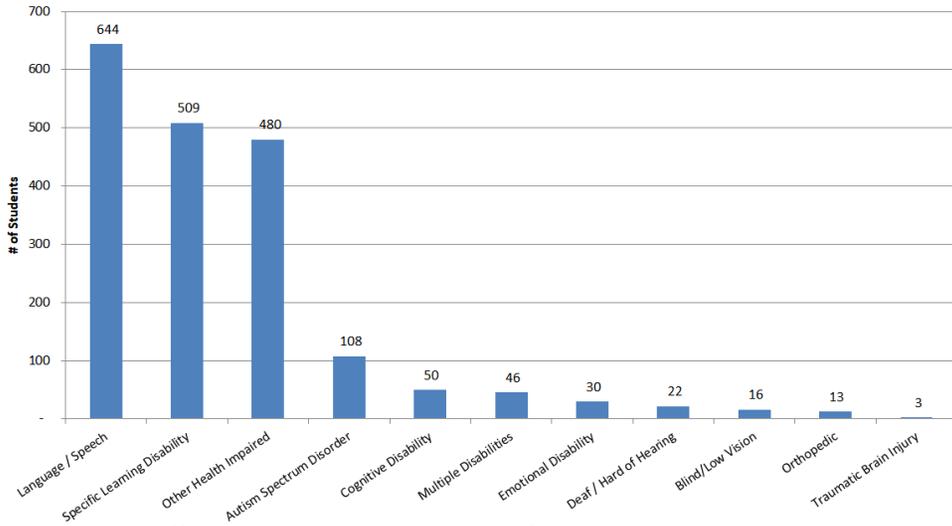


### Catholic and Non-Catholic Enrollment

Academic Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Catholic - #	19,319	19,061	18,996	18,843	18,629
Catholic - %	81.0%	80.2%	79.5%	79.4%	78.9%
Non-Catholic - #	4,522	4,706	4,902	4,881	4,979
Non-Catholic - %	19.0%	19.8%	20.5%	20.6%	21.1%

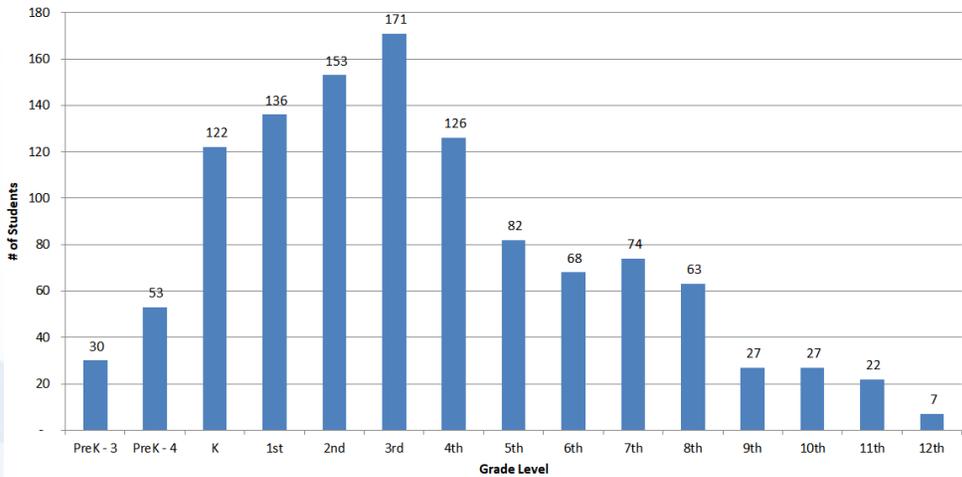
# Archdiocesan Student Information and Performance Indicators

## 2017-2018 Students with Learning Exceptionalities



Note: Data from five Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are not included in this chart.

## 2017-2018 Students who Participate in English as a New Language Programming



Note: Data from five Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are not included in this chart.

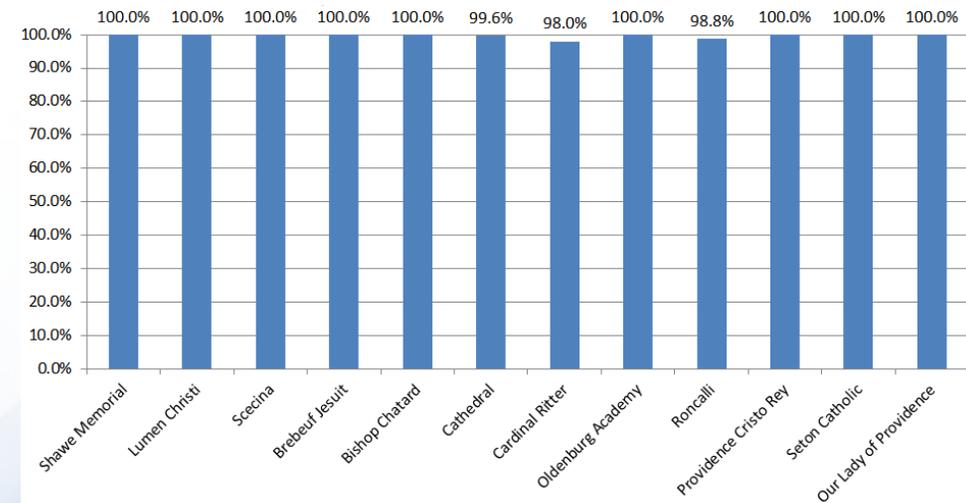
**Seventeen Archdiocesan Schools were named "Four Star Schools" by the State of Indiana based on 2015-2016 ISTEP+ student performance!**



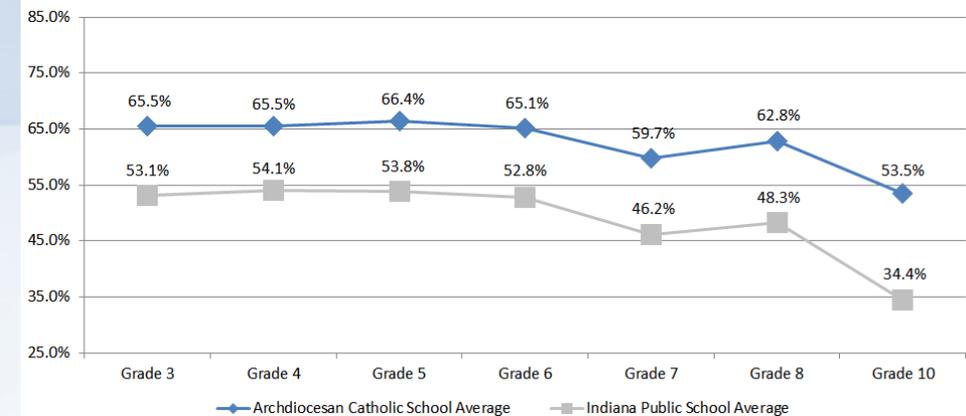
## Archdiocesan Class of 2017 Profile

Number of Graduates	1,353
Hours of Service Performed During 4 Years of High School	77,650
Number of Students Pursuing a Post-Secondary Education	1,309
Number of Advanced Placement Credits Earned	3,123
Number of Merit Based Scholarships Offered	2,371
Total \$ Amount of Merit-Based Scholarships Offered	\$138,318,468

## School-Reported Class of 2017 Graduation Rates



## Spring 2017 ISTEP+ Percentage of Students Passing Both ELA and Math

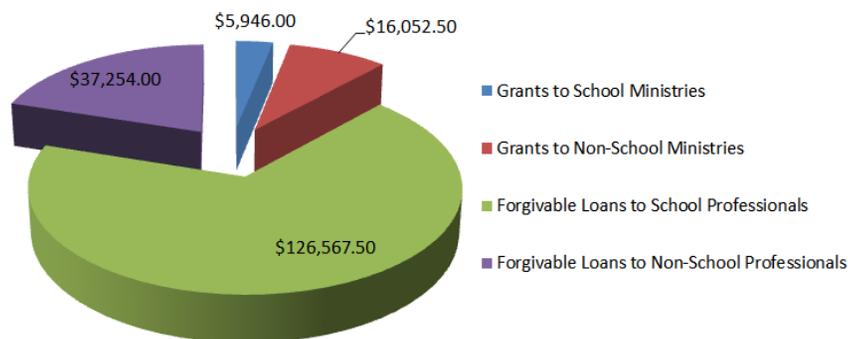


## Total Catholic Education Endowment Fund (TCE Fund)

Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara established the Total Catholic Education Fund in 1990 to provide financial support for the professional training and education of Catholic educators and catechetical leaders. This financial support is typically used by teachers, catechists, and ministerial leaders to pursue certifications and advanced degrees in education, administration, ministry, and/or academic content areas at a variety of colleges and universities.

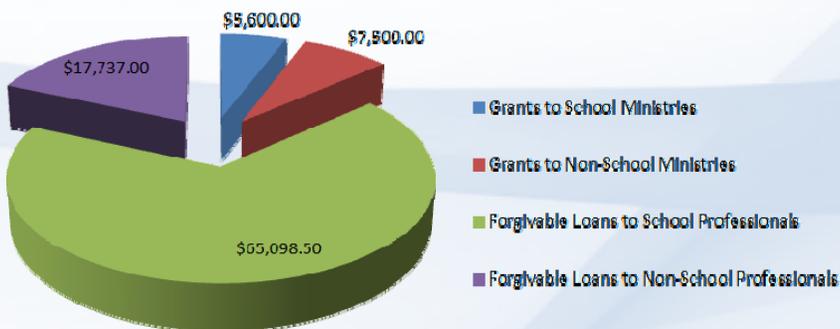
During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, more than \$185,000 in forgivable loans and grants was pledged to thirty-five ministers of the faith and nine schools and agencies.

### FY 2016-2017 TCE Grants and Forgivable Loans



Thus far for the current fiscal year, almost \$100,000 has been committed to twenty-nine ministers of the faith and three schools and agencies.

### First Half of FY 2017-2018 TCE Grants and Forgivable Loans



For more information on TCE Grants and Forgivable Loans, contact Maureen Okerson at [mokerson@archindy.org](mailto:mokerson@archindy.org).

## Archdiocesan Grants Support Parishes and Schools

From tuck pointing for church buildings to the development of a school's outdoor learning lab, more than \$880,000 in grants was awarded by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis during the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year to help parishes, schools, and agencies continue to provide and to grow ministry throughout central and southern Indiana. Almost \$340,000 of these awards were granted specifically to school ministries to enhance programming, ensure safety and security, modernize facilities and furnishings, and upgrade technologies.



These grants are made possible by three funds and are coordinated by the Archdiocesan Finance Office and the Office of Stewardship and Development. To learn more about these funds and the application process, please visit <http://www.archindy.org/finance/grant.html>.

**The St. Francis Xavier Home Mission Grant:** The Saint Francis Xavier Home Mission Grant Endowment Fund provides a distribution that is coupled with funds from parishes that are collected over and above the parish's United Catholic Appeal goal. Grants are awarded to parishes or schools experiencing poverty or facing emergency needs that they cannot meet on their own and are vital to the mission of the Church.

**The Growth & Expansion Grant:** The Archdiocese of Indianapolis' Growth and Expansion Endowment Fund provides support to archdiocesan parishes, schools, and agencies that are growing or expanding their ministries. The growth and expansion initiatives may be in the form of capital requests, staffing, or programming needs, but the need must be tied to a new or expanding ministry.

**The James P. Scott Grant:** The James P. Scott Endowment Fund was funded with an undesignated estate gift to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis from Mr. Scott. This grant provides funding in the form of matching grants or awards to support an archdiocesan parish, school, or agency capital project that demonstrates great potential impact on an archdiocesan program, parish, the larger Catholic community, and/or to support donor incentives needed to help fill a capital project fundraising gap.

## Capital Campaigns

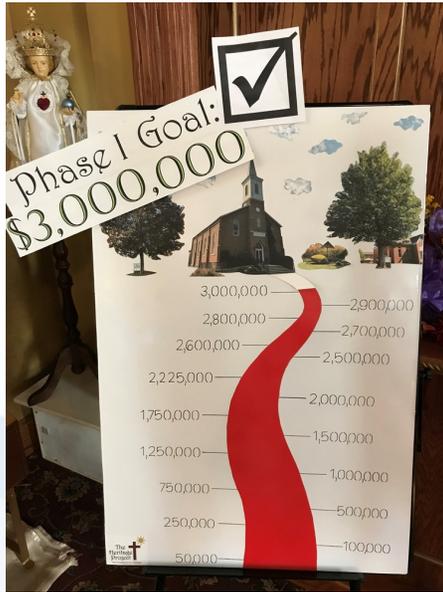
By: Jolinda Moore (Executive Director, Archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development)



From raising more than \$3 million for the building of an entirely new education center at St. Nicholas in Sunman to Roncalli High School's almost \$6.5 million master plan to improve and

grow their campus, capital campaigns in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are an expression of our shared commitment to excellence in ministry. They build on foundations given to us by generations of the faithful throughout central and southern Indiana, and they will be an inheritance for generations yet to come.

Currently, eighteen parishes and two high schools are within the approved process for beginning or conducting a capital campaign. Thirteen of the parishes in the midst of the process have a school ministry. While the work of some of these campaigns may not directly impact the school building, improving parish facilities always has a positive and direct impact on all parish ministries, including our Catholic schools.



A parish involved in a capital campaign has prepared by writing a case statement, undertaking a feasibility study, and working with outside counsel to ensure the best outcome of their efforts. The results of recent efforts have been tremendous and speak to the commitment and dedication of the many faithful followers of Christ.

## Growing Spiritually, Academically, Socially, and Physically

By: Sully (8th Grader at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School; Indianapolis, IN)

My Catholic school means a lot to me. It has been pretty much everything to me for nine years. My school has taught me to grow spiritually, academically, socially, and physically.



- ◆ I have grown spiritually because we get to go to Mass every Wednesday, and I have the opportunity to serve at Mass.
- ◆ I have grown academically because my teachers help me whenever I need it, and they help me be as successful as possible.
- ◆ I have grown socially by being close with everybody in my grade, and I have learned how to make friends with kids in other grades.
- ◆ I have grown physically by playing CYO sports for my school and having a competitive way to have fun.



I have learned so much from St. Thomas Aquinas School, and my life would be very different without it. My relationship is so much stronger with God than it would be if I did not have a Catholic education. Because of these reasons, I hope to go to a Catholic high school.



## Latino Outreach Initiative

By: Phil Gonzalez (Coordinator of Latino Outreach, Office of Catholic Schools)



In 2017, the Office of Catholic Schools launched the Latino Outreach Initiative to support schools in better engaging Latino students and families. This initiative promotes the evangelizing mission of Catholic schools by working with five archdiocesan elementary and high schools to

effectively recruit Latino families and serve Latino students.

The five participating schools are Roncalli High School, Indianapolis; Seccina Memorial High School, Indianapolis; Our Lady of Providence High School, Clarksville; St. Lawrence Catholic School, Indianapolis; and St. Bartholomew Catholic School, Columbus.

Three realities resulted in the development of this initiative:

- ◆ First, Indiana's Hispanic population grew by approximately 82% between 2000 and 2010. (Citation: Strange, 2013)
- ◆ Second, the mission of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis states that we strive to live the Gospel by "worshipping God in word and sacrament"; "learning, teaching, and sharing our faith"; and "serving human needs."
- ◆ Third, research shows that Latino students who attend Catholic schools are more likely to graduate from high school and college than those not in Catholic schools. (Citation: Grogger & Neal, 2000)

Simply stated, we are called to provide formation and improve outcomes for Latino students and families who desire a high quality Catholic education.



Through collaboration with the Coordinator of Latino Outreach, schools participating in the Latino Outreach Initiative develop and implement action plans that make schools more culturally inclusive and welcoming for Latino students, nurture relationships with Latino families through parishes and community organizations, and build the capacity of teachers to meet the academic needs of Latino students.

## "I have the best job in the world"

By: Sandi Kirchner (Teacher, St. Mary's; North Vernon, IN)

"Time flies when you're having fun." It's a simple phrase that I find myself repeatedly using to sum up my career in education. The last 35 years have flown by – years of growth, both personal and for my students; years of adjusting to change in teaching methodologies; years of enriching my faith; and years of pure joy as I continue to live what I truly believe is my vocation. I never dreamt or planned that my career would be spent entirely at St. Mary's Catholic School in North Vernon, IN, as a third grade teacher, but obviously God had a plan that was the perfect fit for me.



My common refrain is that "I have the best job in the world." I go to work daily feeding my passion for teaching young minds and molding them into great, caring human beings with a solid foundation in their Catholic faith. The payoff from teaching at St. Mary's has been, and continues to be, indescribable. Not only have I been given the opportunity to interact with and craft God's masterpieces, I have the blessing of strengthening my faith and constantly being reminded of the important things in life. I have been blessed to work under some very remarkable people who have provided me with great guidance and support. I have established an extended family in my coworkers, who help me stay inspired to perform at the highest level and help challenge me to be a better person.

Teaching at St. Mary's is part of my identity. I have had the privilege of teaching my own four children during their time in school and have instructed too many nieces and nephews to count. Just last year I had a new experience - teaching two of my grandchildren! The drive I have for teaching continues to be fulfilled as I watch the second generation of my family sit in the same seats as their parents once sat.

When former students or parents ask me when I plan to retire, my honest and simple response is "NEVER!" Teaching is what I do – it is what drives me on a daily basis. Teaching makes my heart full. Nothing is better than seeing the lightbulb moment for a student or seeing a student experience God's grace. For now, I will allow "time to fly by" as I enjoy walking into the classroom and molding the minds and hearts of the future at St. Mary's School, my home away from home.

## Life Skills and Leadership Skills

By: Lauren (Senior at Roncalli High School; Alumnus of St. Jude; Indianapolis, IN)



From a young age, I observed my three older brothers' actions closely. They were leaders, and I learned valuable lessons from them: strive for improvement, never give up, and behave yourself because people are always watching. To this day, I still remember each of these tips and put them into action.

As a three-sport athlete at Roncalli, my faith is prevalent within my teams. We complete service hours and service projects, which puts our faith into action. Before each basketball game,

our team gathers in the chapel and a player offers a reflection about something in her life, how it has impacted her, and how she grew from the experience. These reflections have deepened and strengthened my relationship with Christ.



Leadership, whether through actions or words, includes supporting my teammates on the court and field and in everything they do. I try to demonstrate love, inspiration, and encouragement. In pushing others to succeed, a leader may need to sacrifice personal goals for the team's overall success.

The life and leadership skills I have received at St. Jude and Roncalli - and in CYO and IHSAA athletics - make me the person I am.



## INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

Indiana's Tax Credit Scholarship program was created in 2009 as a way to give families who meet income guidelines an opportunity to send their child to a participating private school. Through the generosity of Hoosiers like you, private donations are given as scholarships so students may attend a private school that may not have been an option to them otherwise.

### Why give?

Donors can help families facing financial barriers to enrollment choose a Catholic education for their children and can also receive a State of Indiana tax credit of 50% of the amount of their donations. Donations also qualify as charitable deductions on federal tax returns.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Is there a limit to how much I can give and still receive a tax credit?**

No, provided the donation does not exceed the amount of credits made available by the State of Indiana. (The state has allocated \$12.5 million in credits for fiscal year 2017-'18, and the cap resets annually on July 1.)

**Who receives these scholarships?**

Indiana K-12 students who meet income eligibility guidelines and who enroll in participating schools.

**Can I designate a school or student to receive my gift?**

You may designate your gift to a specific school but not to a specific student.

**Learn More and Help a Student Today**

Contact Kim Pohovey in the Office of Stewardship and Development at (317) 236-1568 / [kpohovey@archindy.org](mailto:kpohovey@archindy.org) to learn more or to make a donation.

You can also make a donation online at <https://sgo.i4qed.org/donate>.



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SAVE THE DATE for the 22nd ANNUAL EVENT

**Thursday, February 22, 2018**

Reception at 5:30 PM, followed by Program

Crowne Plaza Hotel - Union Station, Grand Hall - Indianapolis, IN

*Since 1996, Celebrating Catholic School Values (CCSV) has highlighted Catholic schools as assets to the corporate community, honored an outstanding group of alumni for their career accomplishments, and honored friends of Catholic schools for their community service.*

*This event supports the fundraising of much needed money for scholarships to help our low-income families enroll their children in the Catholic schools of their choice.*

**Keynote Speaker**



**Sr. Carol Cimino, SSJ, EdD**  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Diocese of Buffalo

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