



DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City

Catholic Schools Office Newsletter

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS

July 2021



Education is a fundamental corporal work of mercy. Catholic Schools are a center where students and teachers, imbued with the words of truth, will search for the wisdom that guides the Christian life and strive wholeheartedly to stand by Christ as their teacher.

—Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

How blessed are we to live and work in a diocese built on the spirituality of stewardship!

To have our administrators, teachers, staff, students, families, parishioners and supporters dedicated to giving of their time, talent and treasure to ensure that our students are thoughtful, generous, charitable citizens of this world, prepared to be welcomed by God into the next.

All of us involved in the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Jefferson City are grateful to serve, blessed by our Bishop and our pastors, delighted with our students and alumni, and proud to partner with the first and best teachers of our students: their parents.

This document is the Catholic Schools Office's way of letting all our constituents know how we are doing, what is coming next, and how grateful we are for your continued support. Blessings!

Erin Vader

Erin Vader, Ed.D.
Superintendent

FAITH FORMATION & IN-PERSON LEARNING

In a year filled with uncertainty, the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Jefferson City met the challenges head-on, and completed a full academic year of in-person learning. We also recognized the effectiveness of our switch to virtual learning during the Spring of 2020 — **our October standardized test scores showed virtually zero learning loss overall.** Our teachers, staff, administrators and pastors had managed to neutralize the effect of the COVID shutdown on our students.



**“At no time in recent memory has
the impact of Catholic education
been more evident.”**

—Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

While keeping our schools in session, our administrators also continued their work on updating and improving what and how our students learn. The diocesan Curriculum Committee completed updates to the diocesan religion curriculum; it was reviewed and approved by a committee of teachers, administrators and pastors. The religion curriculum joins the recently updated math and language arts curriculum. Science will be the focus of our upcoming year.

Our schools also began a new program to provide ongoing faith formation for our faculty and staff. “Franciscan at Home” is a virtual program underwritten by the Knights of Columbus councils in the diocese.

Five schools completed Missouri Nonpublic School Accreditation Association visits, ensuring that our schools are meeting all appropriate benchmarks.

The schools also participated in completing work on a rubric based on the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools, which will help us in identifying strengths and challenges in all our schools.

THE POWER OF GENEROUS HEARTS

Our schools were blessed with tremendous support in a difficult year. The most important support we received was the care of our parents and parishioners, who gave us love and prayers and continued to contribute to their parishes throughout a pandemic. The schools received a donation equal to \$200 per student to provide Christmas bonuses for our teachers.

An anonymous donor also provided \$2.2 million as a grant for schools to update technology in our schools in light of gaps identified by the COVID pandemic.

We were also blessed to receive a donation of \$1.4 million to provide a bonus to all our school faculty and staff as a “thank you” for all their hard work in a challenging environment.

Additionally, we were blessed to work with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on facilitating over \$10 million of federal funds meant to provide help in addressing pandemic needs, technology needs, learning programs and social/mental health needs in this most difficult year.

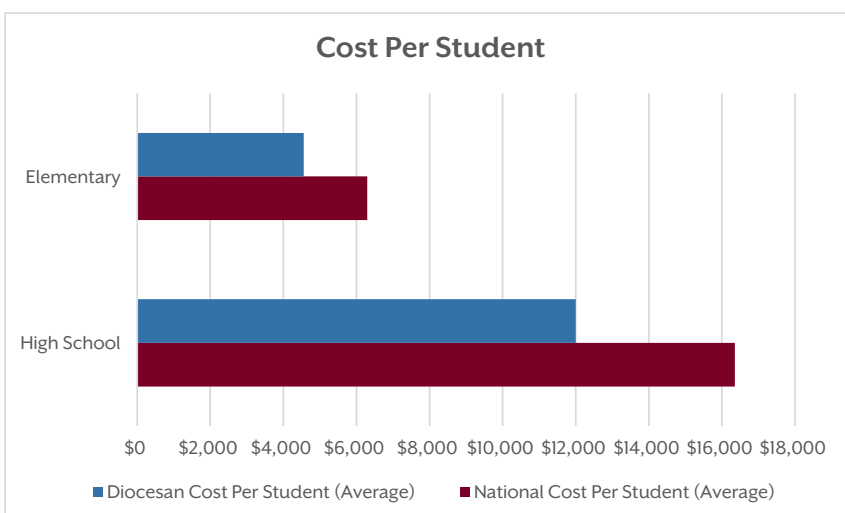
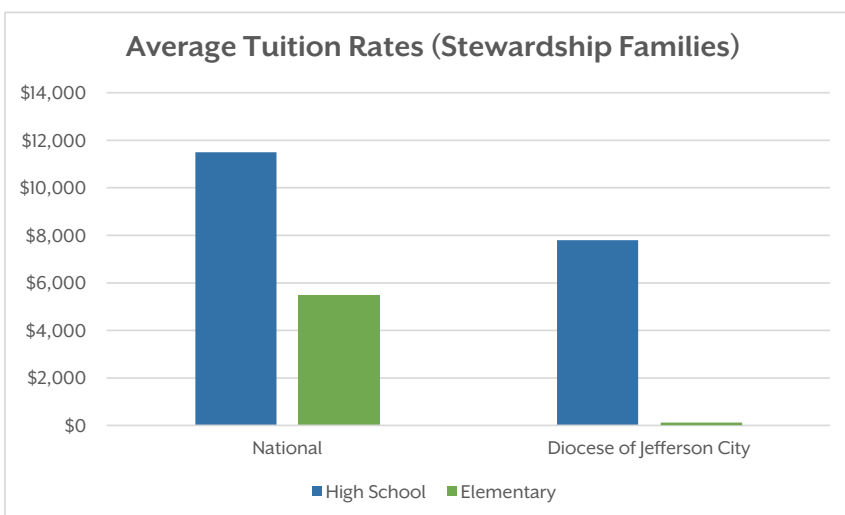
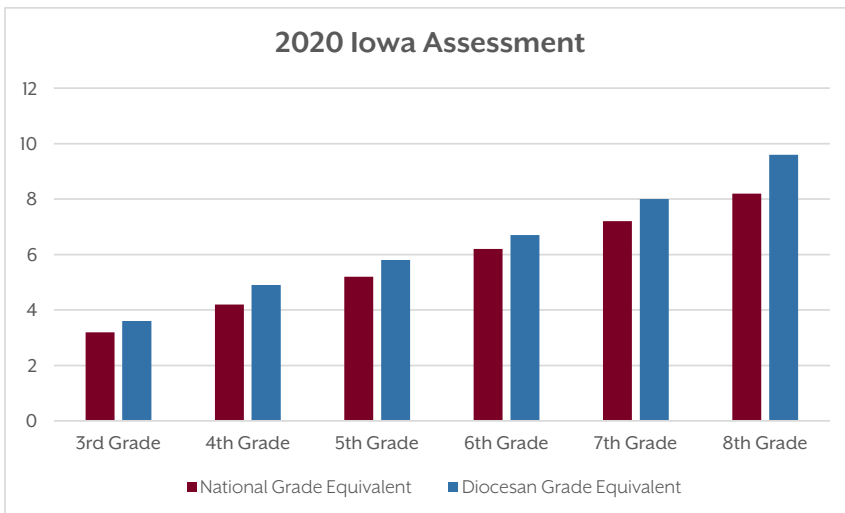
It must be noted that our most important gift this year — and every year — is the continued support of our parishes and parishioners.

Donations are wonderful. But no donation impacts our schools’ ability to provide a faith-filled, academically-excellent Catholic education the way consistent giving to our parishes can.

Your weekly giving makes our mission possible!



HOW WE COMPARE



STATISTICS

Diocese of Jefferson City

- ◆ 37 elementary schools and 3 high schools
- ◆ One of two stewardship dioceses in the nation
- ◆ 99% graduation rate from high school
- ◆ 99% acceptance rate into the secondary education of their choice
- ◆ ACT & SAT scores higher than national average
- ◆ Over \$85,000 in scholarships per senior on average
- ◆ Highest student enrollment in Missouri (by percentage)
- ◆ Thousands of service hours completed by elementary and high school students

Nationally

- ◆ Catholic Schools provide \$22 billion in savings nationally for public school system.
- ◆ Catholic School students are more likely to attend Church as an adult, more likely to identify as Catholic, more likely to raise their children in the faith, more likely to vote, and more likely to participate in their community.

MOVING FORWARD

Building on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, “A Steward’s Journey,” the Catholic Schools Office has started a 3-5 year plan built upon the Pastoral Plan and the pillars of stewardship.

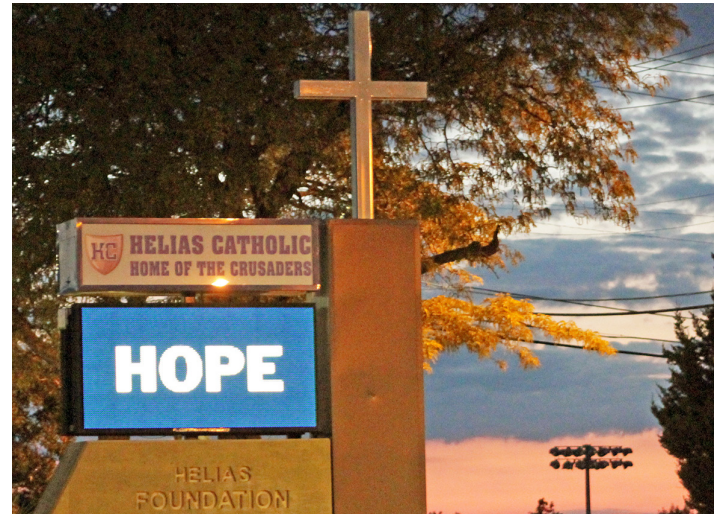
In response to the Pastoral Plan goal of strengthening co-responsibility, the Catholic Schools Office plan is focused on providing administrators opportunities to grow in leadership and use their God-given talents. Each administrator is a member of one committee: Retreat, Curriculum Development, Accreditation, Evaluation Tools, Textbooks and Programs, Professional Development or Stewardship.

The Catholic Schools Office also realigned our school regions to match our new deaneries as a way to encourage strong working relationships with our pastors.

A Leadership Academy is in the works to identify and grow more leaders within our school communities.

In response to the Pastoral Plan goal of strengthening charity and mercy, our schools are continuing to work with Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri. A partnership with Catholic Charities will provide schools with a Counseling Director, and allow service opportunities for our families at their new health and social services center. The Counseling Director will also create a forum for school counselors and principals to offer support and resources to meet school needs.

In addition, our schools continue their focus on serving their individual communities: feeding the hungry (Summer Lunch Program at St. Peter, JC), clothing the naked (hat, glove and blanket drives at St. George in Linn), instructing others in the faith (students brought into the Church in Moberly and Kirksville), as well as continued formation in the Sacraments, support to parishes as altar servers, and a focus on personal service.



In response to the Diocesan Pastoral Plan goal of strengthening participation, the Catholic Schools Office is examining our role in the Stewardship renewal process.

Working with the Diocesan Stewardship Office to support Stewardship Renewal, facilitating the new Safe Environment policy for parents/guardians as a way to encourage participation in school events, and continuing to form our students in the spirituality of stewardship are all goals for the coming year.

Please visit the Catholic Schools Office webpage at diojeffcity.org/school-office/ for information on curriculum, policies, future plans and contact information.