



**THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO**

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## **Diocese of Kalamazoo High School Capstone Project Overview**

### **Purpose of the Capstone Project**

The purpose of the Diocese of Kalamazoo Capstone project is to require all graduating high school seniors to demonstrate their depth of understanding of the Catholic faith through a presentation on a selected topic before a panel of theological and academic experts. Each presentation will showcase the student's academic, organizational, presentation and leadership skills acquired through an organized effort among all content area teachers over the course of four years. This project will be scored and a student must earn a minimum proficiency grade in order to meet this new graduation requirement.

In addition to this graduating requirement, the top students from each school will compete for 10 scholarships ranging in value \$500 to \$5,000. To assist each student, they will be assigned a mentor during their junior year to guide them and help them meet deadlines. No student will be assigned a mentor from the Theology department since these teachers will be available to assist all students.

### **Capstone Project**

- Students will choose a topic by the end of their junior year with the assistance of Theology and other instructors.
- Students will select their topic from an approved list that draws upon their four-year Theology courses (i.e. apologetics, morality, Catholic social teaching, or biblical relevance) or can propose a topic to the Theology Department for approval.
- Students will be responsible for researching, organizing and creating a final presentation by March of their senior year. A scoring rubric will be included in students' materials.
- Based on this rubric, a score will be given that will be used to determine the top 10 students for each high school. Each project will be evaluated on rubrics, to include: theological content, writing, media, research, citing sources appropriately, oral presentation skills, etc.
- The top 10 finalists will then present their topics before a panel of experts from a variety of areas including clergy, educators, and members of the faith community.
- Presentations must be done in oral and written formats.
- Each presentation will be a minimum of eight minutes and not to exceed twelve minutes.
- In the first round of the competition, each student will present to a local body; ten students will advance to the local scholarship round. Out of these ten, a set number will be selected to go to the final diocesan round.
- Each of the three diocesan high schools will be prorated the number of students who advance to the scholarship round – this will be based on enrollment.

### **Scholarship**

- Scholarships will be awarded as follows: first prize of \$5000.00; second prize of \$3000.00; third prize of \$2000.00; and the remaining 7 presenters will receive prize of \$500.00 – totaling: \$13,500.