As the 2019-20 school year gets underway, we invite you to consider how you can be part of the mission of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Worcester by supporting the 2019 Catholic Schools Appeal. If you are a product of a Catholic education, we ask that you consider prayerfully how you can give thanks to God for the gift of that educational opportunity by helping another student experience a Catholic education for their future.

“The school reinforces the values that we teach at home.”

– Parent, Our Lady of the Angels School, Worcester
Dear Benefactors,

Each fall, the Diocese of Worcester conducts the Annual Catholic Schools Appeal. Why? Unlike public schools, we are funded almost entirely through tuition and the generosity of people like you. And unlike private schools, it is our mission to extend that to as many families as possible, regardless of financial ability. Given the challenges in today's educational climate, this year's appeal is more important than ever.

In addition to financial aid, we also use your contributions for a variety of essential school needs. Updating technology, investing in rigorous curriculum, ensuring school safety, compensating teachers and staff, and providing professional development are among the many investments needed in a high-quality, contemporary school system. More than 6,000 students attending Catholic schools substantially benefit from these efforts.

Using the envelope provided or by donating online, you can direct your gift to the school of your choice, or allow us to direct your contribution for maximum benefit.

You may be an alum of one of our Catholic schools, or have sent your children or grandchildren to one. Your parish may also sponsor a school. In all these cases, you have witnessed why a Catholic education matters. As Catholics, we have a responsibility to share the faith, and there is no better way to do this than through the gift of a Catholic education.

The financial stability and further growth of our schools depends on contributions from donors like you. I appreciate your prayerful consideration of how you can make a difference in a child's future.

Sincerely,

David Perda, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Dear friends in Christ,

In the article, “Why Catholic Education Still Matter in 10 Reasons,” Rev. Ronald Nuzzi starts by saying Catholic school students “see the signs of God’s love around them, . . . in their own neighborhoods, communities and the world. In an incarnational view of the world, there is no such thing as a secular subject as all learning helps to develop and bring to full bloom that image of God that is in each person.” In other words, God is not a subject. We learn in Catholic schools how to see the hand of God in all subjects, see Christ’s face in all people, and the Spirit of God permeating all of creation.

Your support of Catholic schools is support for the Catholic parent trying to raise a child in the faith, or the parent who recognizes that faith-based education develops the whole child to be best prepared for life.

I invite you to review this year’s Catholic Schools Appeal report available online at www.schools.worcesterdiocese.org and in The Catholic Free Press. Catholic Schools are performing a vital service to the entire Church and we need the support of everyone to carry on our mission. In order to share the “Good News” story of Catholic schools, we rely on those of you who yourselves have received a Catholic education or have witnessed the benefits of a Catholic education in the graduates you have come to know. We owe it to future generations for them to be able to encounter Christ in the classroom. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can be part of this support for our Catholic schools.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

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HOW YOU CAN RESPOND:

Online:  schools.worcesterdiocese.org
Or:  the second collection in your parish or make a donation directly to the Catholic school of your choice.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL FACTS

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE
Elementary and Middle School:  17.02 STUDENTS
High School:  16.88 STUDENTS

Daily Attendance Rate:  96.68%
High School Graduation Rate:  100%

High School Graduates Attending 4-year College:  92.9%
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

“I appreciate the one-on-one attention that is given to each student.”
– Parent, Holy Family Academy, Gardner

Catholic Schools have always excelled at providing high-quality academics and have some of the highest post-graduation rates of any schools.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

“I feel like my kids are safe at school... and learning how to help others.”
– Parent, St. Bernard Elementary, Fitchburg

Education extends beyond the classroom with the opportunity to engage in a variety of sports as well as theatrical and musical productions, clubs and social activities.

More than 8 out of 10 Parents Responded:

• My child’s teacher encourages my child to do his/her best work.
• I am happy my child is enrolled at this school.
• My child has sufficient opportunities to participate in educational, social and recreational activities with grade level peers while at school.
• The learning environment fosters self-discipline so that students can become more independent learners.
• Students are encouraged through all aspects of their school experience to develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.
• The school community lives the Gospel message through service to the poor and those in need.

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Bishop of Worcester
Catholic Schools help students to identify their role in the greater community, expressing our love of God by serving others.

“I feel the warm family atmosphere each day that I drop him off. The teachers truly care about each child.”

– Parent, Assumption School, Millbury