A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT - Kim Hermsen

As we celebrate National Catholic Schools Week in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, I can’t help but reflect on the past year. Our Catholic schools and early childhood programs continued to serve the spiritual, academic, and social/emotional needs of over 10,000 children during these unprecedented times. Although the challenges have been great, the dedication and commitment to maintain the mission of our Catholic schools and serve as an important ministry of our parishes, has been a beacon of hope and light.

First I am so very proud of how administrators, teachers, and other school employees have stepped up to provide the consistency and continuity of in person instruction throughout this past semester. Schools have gone to extraordinary lengths to implement extensive mitigation measures to promote the health and well-being of our students and all who work in our buildings. They have been creative and flexible to ensure high quality instruction for all students, including those that have needed to join remotely. Most importantly, their commitment in keeping our Catholic faith and Christian community at the heart of all our schools has been paramount.

Additionally I am incredibly grateful for the support our schools have received from our pastors, school boards, other parish leadership, and the broader parish communities. Their unwavering support of their Catholic schools during these uncertain times have been key to the successful reopening of our schools. Keeping child care centers open, offering special food programs, making needed modifications in school buildings, and providing extra financial resources wouldn’t have been possible without their unfailing commitment to the importance of Catholic education.

Finally, I am honored that parents have continued to partner with our schools as we work together to build a strong faith foundation for our students. This year has certainly reaffirmed the need for Catholic schools as they provide rigorous academics, formation in our faith, and a supportive community. The significant impact our schools make in the lives of our families has been clearly evident and greatly appreciated. I know it is a privilege for our schools to be entrusted with the care of your children as you each make sacrifices to provide your child(ren) with the gift of a Catholic school education.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2021, may we look forward with hope and joy as we continue to work together for the blessing of Catholic schools!

"We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." -Philippians 4:13
AFFORDABILITY

The Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future School Tuition Organization awarded $5,189,028 in 2020 in need-based tuition grants to 3438 students. This represents nearly 40% of all K-12 students attending Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Families are eligible for STO assistance if their taxable income is at or below 400% of the federal poverty rate for the previous tax year. The STO grants are made possible through the support of hundreds of donors across the Archdiocese. These donors not only receive the satisfaction of helping thousands of students, but also receive an Iowa income tax credit equal to 65% of the total donation. Donor applications and more information about the STO program are available at www.OurFaithSTO.org. On behalf of the students who are able to attend our schools due to your generosity- thank you!

DID YOU KNOW?

All schools within the Archdiocese of Dubuque are accredited through the Iowa Department of Education. This means they must meet all of the stated DE requirements for nonpublic schools including alignment with curriculum standards and reporting student assessment data. In addition, all administrators and teachers are licensed through the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners.