



Dear Friends of the STO,

[Donate Now](#)

Our first-day enrollment figures are in, and **8,714 students returned to or started their Catholic education in the Archdiocese.** This is an enrollment decrease of .62% over the 2020-21 school year. While it is a decrease, it is the first time in 15 years that enrollment declines were less than 1%. Thank you for your generosity, and always remember that the tuition grants provided by your support may make the difference when a family is considering Catholic education.

I've had several donors ask recently, "Can I get an Iowa income tax credit on the total amount if I donate more than \$1,000?" The answer is YES! **There is no ceiling on the amount you can donate or the credits you can receive,** other than when the credits are gone; they're gone. In 2021 we've been given \$4,043,598 in incentivized tax credits to distribute. Please make your donation soon, as waiting till late December may mean you're too late.

Did you know that STO funds raised through December 31st are awarded to families for the 2022-23 school year? The distribution of the 2020 funds is almost complete. Soon we'll be able to provide details on the percentage of Archdiocesan students assisted and the numbers for each school. Stay tuned.

A campaign called "Get to Know your STO" will begin with bulletin announcements and Facebook advertising the week of Sept. 12th. As recent donors, you are familiar with the mission of our work, but many people are not. **Could you please tell a friend (or two) about the STO and the incredible 75% Iowa income tax credit?** Word of mouth is the best form of advertising.

If you have questions about the Our Faith STO, please feel free to reach me at b.zeman@dbqarch.org Thank you so much for being so supportive of Catholic education!

Take Care and God Bless!

Brian Zeman
Deacon Brian Zeman

Why do I teach in a Catholic School?



Stephanie Ricken
St. Francis Elementary
School- Marshalltown
1st Grade
11 Years Teaching

Why do I choose to teach in a Catholic school?:

For multiple generations, our families have attended Marshalltown area Catholic schools. Including grandparents, my father, father-in-law, husband as well as all four of my children. One thing I admire about Catholic schools is the deep-rooted tradition and quality faith-focused education it offers.

How has God affirmed that I've made the right choice?:

Working here I have gotten to know some amazing students and their families. Taking part in laying the foundation for their faith journey is something I take tremendous joy in. I love that I get to share in special milestones such as First Communion and Confirmations of current and former students. It fills my heart with joy when former students return to our school for alumni events such as alumni basketball games, jungle ball, and graduation. I can clearly see what I pour into my students, they are giving back to others.

Background: This is my sixth year teaching 1st grade, but my eleventh year at St. Francis. I am married to my wonderful husband, Brian. We have four amazing children: Kaden (16), Bennett (12), Easton (10), and Mackenzie (8)

Family Stories from those helped by the STO

The comments below were taken directly from 2021-22 STO applications

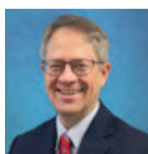
I'm still recovering from divorce and making full mortgage payments while catching up on credit cards. I get little to no assistance with paying for my children's needs. I have also been taking college credits to get my special education endorsement. Those costs are coming out of my own pocket. Thank you for your help.

Parent of 8th-grade student

Our life has changed so much this past year with Covid. We are asking for help with school due to my husband's work closing down. Any kind of assistance will help. My children love the Holy Family schools and child care. They have changed our lives so much. It's so amazing hearing my children talk about God and how much he loves us all.

Parent of Holy Family school system children

For more information contact:



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or visit OurFaithSTO.org



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