Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Knoxville

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Everything Is Grace
FROM THE BISHOP
The Most Reverend Richard F. Stika

Dear Friends,

It is often said, young people are the future of the Church. But I say the young people are the Church today. The Holy Father designated this past year as the Year of Mercy, and it is God’s grace that allows us to be merciful. The theme Everything is Grace appropriately fits our Catholic schools as each day God gives us the grace to live out our divine adoption and call to discipleship. In light of this, I am pleased to share with you the 2015-2016 Annual Report for our Catholic schools. Each and every day our school communities endeavor to proclaim God’s message of love and model His actions of service.

During the Holy Father’s visit to the United States for the World Meeting of Families, Pope Francis spoke to school children in Harlem. He reminded them “wherever there is joy, Jesus is always present. Because Jesus is joy, and he wants to help us to feel that joy every day of our lives”. As you review the pages of this year’s Annual Report, the joy radiating from our schools is easily communicated. This joy comes from the living presence of Jesus animating our Catholic schools. I want to thank our pastors, educators, parents, students, and communities for believing in our Catholic schools. They exist for our Church today and tomorrow. As bishop, I am grateful for the gift of our Catholic schools.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard F. Stika
Bishop of Knoxville

“Everything is grace: everything is the direct effect of our Father’s love”.
St. Therese of Lisieux

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Dedicated to teaching the mission of the Catholic Church, Diocese of Knoxville schools are faith-centered, academic communities focused on teaching the Good News of the Gospel by fostering growth spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and physically to prepare students to serve in a changing society.

Core Values

The Diocese of Knoxville is dedicated to providing outstanding Catholic education to the students in our region. The following core values represent our priorities. These values impact every aspect of our schools:

- Catholic Identity
- Service to God and Others
- Dignity of Individual Persons
- Honor and Integrity
- Excellence
- Leadership

Everything is Grace

Because

Everything is God’s Gift
Rigorous academic standards translate into superior academic achievement. Knoxville Catholic High School and Notre Dame High School continue to exceed the state and nation in standardized testing. ACT scores provide a benchmark for college readiness and career success. The exam scores below reveal the consistent outstanding level of performance over the last five years.

Five Year Trend ACT

76%

Scored a 3 or higher on College Board AP exams compared to 58% in the state and 60% in the nation.

7 National Merit Scholars

99% of graduates attend a college or university

$23.7 MILLION in College scholarships awarded to our Seniors in the Class of 2016

Average ACT in Diocese of Knoxville Schools 24.7

Average ACT in Tennessee Public Schools 19.9

2016 Diocesan High Schools ACT Scores Compared to the State

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<th>English</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Science</th>
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<td>266</td>
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<td>19.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>19.9</td>
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Students in our 8 elementary schools and 7 preschools are joyful witnesses to the value of Catholic school education. Enthusiasm abounds in our foundational schools as students are stimulated to explore the world around them through active, engaging learning experiences. From outdoor classrooms to virtual reality, students are provided the inspiration and tools to excel in all academic areas. In partnership with parents, faith formation and sacramental preparation are essential components in the high standards set for student achievement.

2015-2016 Foundational School Highlights

159 Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) 4th-7th grade participants scoring between the 95th and 99th percentile rank on the Iowa Assessments

33 7th grade students achieved state honors for their scores on the ACT or SAT college entrance exam.

1 7th grade student, Connor Brunson, scored in the top 4% of the nation on the ACT.

3 East Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair regional honors

25 Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair regional honors—Amelia Van Berkel, national science fair honor student

5 Regional winners in the Tri-Cities Science Fair, two 1st place winners, Kate Flynn and Sean Raudat

1 First place Math Counts National Competition, Tom Donahue, 7th grade

2 DAR Essay Contest 1st place winners, Devyn Twomney and Nicole Cash

1 Optimist Speech District Champion, Jack Newman, 8th grade

3 Geography Bee state qualifiers

6 Dogwood Arts Festival Art winners

2016 Iowa Scores

Students in our Catholic elementary schools tested in the top third in all categories. Notably, grades 6 through 8 out performed, on average, 86 percent of the nation in English/Language Arts, 70 percent higher in mathematics, and 75 and 78 percent higher in science and social studies.
Our Catholic school mission and core values unite us. From the Catholic Schools’ Office to the farthest corners of East Tennessee—in the classrooms, on the playing fields, in the lunch line, and on the playground this is who we are and why we are here.

**Elementary Schools**
- 2,280 Students
- 86% Catholic Students
- 252 Faculty
- 79% Catholic Percentage of Professional faculty
- 1:18 Average Elementary Class Size

**Secondary Schools**
- 1,085 Students
- 77% Catholic Students
- 105 Faculty
- 56% Catholic Percentage of Professional faculty
- 1:17 Average Secondary Class Size

We Cultivate a faculty of people, dedicated, caring and effective.

5,092 Professional Development Hours Reported
Our Schools are family-centered communities where all decisions, traditions, and teachings originate from our membership in the Catholic Church and are visible as we serve, pray, encourage, and support each other.

Our Schools serve God by placing our personal needs second to the service of others. We believe that work has dignity and contributes to our communities.

Our Schools believe that God created each person with dignity and love.

Our schools seek to be fair and loyal to our calling, to those we serve, and to those who serve us.

Our schools strive to do the very best in all endeavors. We prepare, support, and assist our students to glorify God and to be successful members of society.

Our schools bring out the best in others through leadership and guidance in a collaborative and community-based environment.

$300,322
St. Mary’s Legacy Awards
For Catholic School Education
And Projects

40,158
Service Hours Reported

Weekly Mass
Hundreds of Hours in religious instruction, prayer, and retreats

$4,051,897
Direct Tuition Support

$4,051,897
Direct Tuition Support

Service Hours Reported

Weekly Mass
Hundreds of Hours in religious instruction, prayer, and retreats

$4,051,897
Direct Tuition Support
Dear Young People,

Do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!

World Congress on Catholic Education, November 2015

Catholic Education is love—it is an issue of the heart that involves knowledge and relationships. Secondly, Catholic education is dialogue—it is an open house where Jesus is at the center. Thirdly, Catholic education is service which is offered in the search for truth, beauty and what is right and wrong.
ATHLETICS: Educating *Mind* *Body* *Soul*

Notable Achievements
State High School Football Champions
Girls’ Tennis State Champions
Boys’ Cross Country State Champions
Boys’ Track and Field State Champions
2015-2016 marks milestone years for four of our Catholic schools representing each of our distinct regions. St. Mary’s in Johnson City celebrates its 110th anniversary, St. Dominic School in Kingsport honors its 70th anniversary, Sacred Heart Cathedral School in Knoxville, its 60th and Notre Dame High School in Chattanooga rejoices in its 140th! Founded in 1876, NDHS is the only Catholic high school in southeast Tennessee and the oldest independent school in Chattanooga.

“Our kids take great pride in being the oldest private school in town,” offered NDHS President George Valadie, “But it’s easy for them to forget we came before Erlanger Hospital or UT C not to mention being around before electric light or even sliced bread.”

It is great to have such a long history, but it’s far more important to have a long future. Our legacy has included forming young people who will see humanity form the same perspective of our schools’ first and best teacher from 2,000 years ago. And that we’ll never change.
What does our Superintendent do?

Helps the Principals.
Cares for people.

Goes around telling people about God.
Uses cameras to look at schools all day.

Makes sure everyone is safe.
Makes sure everyone is following the rules.

Teaches. She is busy. She is fancy.

Visits schools to see what kids are doing.
Helps the schools where kids are learning.

A Sister.

By: St. Jude First Grade
The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Knoxville, recognizing how vital the ministry of Catholic Education is to the future of the Church and nation, will provide a learning environment that emphasizes quality education and spiritual growth for all.