The Diocese of Knoxville
Catholic Schools
Hello and thank you for wanting to learn more about Catholic education and our Catholic schools in East Tennessee. I often think when parents enter a Catholic school the first time with the hope of enrolling their child that deep within their hearts they hold the secret desire to see Jesus. Our students and families know that our schools are not just learning environments, but rather special places where they can encounter the face, hands and heart of Jesus. As I travel around the diocese, I notice the positive impact our schools have had on their local communities. With a nearly 150-year history of educational service, generations have experienced excellence in our schools. Alumni serve in essential capacities, including government leaders, businesspersons, health professionals, teachers, priests, athletes and artists. Many can attest to the rich legacy of learning and leadership provided by the Catholic schools. Each day, our Catholic school educators aim higher to minister to our young people through all aspects of their development from service to academics with an unwavering focus on the quality of the student experience. I believe that all students can benefit from the foundational principles and missional purpose of Catholic schools and that a Catholic education is a blessing to our children, families and communities. I invite each of you to visit one of our Catholic schools and prayerfully consider enrollment. See what a difference one of our Catholic schools can make in the life of your child and your family. We want to hear from you. If you are considering a Catholic education, looking for a school, want to get involved or simply want to learn more about who we are and what we stand for, read on, then reach out. Feel free to call the Catholic Schools Office at 865-584-3307 with any questions. Blessings,

The Most Reverend Richard F. Stika
Bishop, Diocese of Knoxville

See what a difference one of our Catholic schools can make in the life of your child and your family.
What makes our Catholic schools gifts to our communities? Our Catholic schools are founded on four guiding principles:

1. Proclaim the Gospel message of Christ.
2. Provide a welcoming and inclusive community.
3. Cultivate the spirit of service.
4. Provide academic rigor and excellence across all facets of student experience.

Proclamation of the good news and the revelation of Christ’s love is at the center of Catholic school education. Catholic schools allow their students to have an active faith in God and His revealed truth through daily prayer and actions. This precious gift fosters a maturing spirituality where a child can know and love God and others. Recognizing faith formation is an individual journey, the Catholic school seeks to accompany each student on this path. This relational action fills the human desire for belonging.

The gift of a welcoming and inclusive community means that we are not in isolation – our experiences are shaped by our interconnectedness. Catholic school students learn to build community in all areas of life by experiencing relationships developed from fellowship in friendship, trust and love.

The gift of cultivating the spirit of service comes from Christ who first modeled the ideal of servant leadership. Catholic schools recognize that all children are imbued with dignity and unique gifts and talents special only to each of them. Catholic schools strive to identify and nurture these individual gifts and talents and encourage the students to use them for the good of others. Service education or experiential learning provides students with the intrinsic value of feeling good about helping others and being able to see the good. It also helps children to learn how to be responsible, solve problems and complete goals. Service builds resilience and is a natural self-esteem builder.

The gifts of academic excellence and rigor are a hallmark of Catholic school education. It also helps children learn responsibility, problem-solving and goal completion. The result is a place where students thrive and can excel in their pursuits.

Catholic schools have the lofty aspiration to build the kingdom of heaven by providing the gift of a holistic education to our students. Catholic school education is a gift of eternal value. I invite you to visit any of our Catholic schools in the area and see the wonder within.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sedonna Prater
Superintendent of Catholic schools, Diocese of Knoxville
The extraordinary value proposition of Catholic schools is based on the synergy of five key elements:

- High-quality, rigorous academic programs
- Safe, nurturing environments
- Holistic development of children
- Values-based, spiritually enriched student experiences grounded in Catholic identity and welcoming of families and children from all religious beliefs
- Price point that is reasonably affordable with a commitment to help families make it affordable

Our Catholic schools have a 100% graduation rate and 99% college attendance rate. While these statistics are impressive, the core of Catholic education focuses not just on the many, but also on each child who enters our doors.

Benefits of Catholic education

Nationally, Catholic schools educate 2.1 million elementary and high school students every day.

The Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Schools system comprises 10 schools across East Tennessee that are a ministry of the Catholic Church. Each school is a faith community within an academic community, where the intensive collaboration of parents, students and faculty results in a comprehensive learning environment where students can excel. Our schools offer a high-quality education focusing on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically.

We welcome students of all faiths, academic abilities, ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds. Our schools reflect the diversity of our local communities. Our schools are faith-centered, academic communities focused on teaching the good news of the Gospel by fostering growth and preparing students to serve in an ever-changing society.

Education is essential to and an extension of our Catholic Christian faith. We believe a complete education builds a complete person. We offer not only excellent classroom instruction, but also faith-centered classes and activities to foster the character and moral development of each child.
Our schools are family-centered and student-centered with all decisions, traditions and teachings originating from the Catholic Church. The unique cultures of our Catholic schools synthesize faith and reason by promoting a Christian vision of the world, of life, of culture and of history. In partnership with parents, the school strives to “create a community school climate that reproduces, as far as possible, the warm and intimate atmosphere of family life.” (Archbishop J. Michael Miller, Secretary, Congregation for Catholic Education) We interact in positive ways while respecting the views and needs of others.

**Service of God & Others**

Our experience as humans is shaped by our interconnectedness. Catholic school students learn to build community in all areas of life by experiencing relationships developed from fellowship in friendship, trust and love. Our schools serve God by placing our personal needs second to the service of others. We believe that work has dignity and contributes to the community.

As each one has received gifts, so use them to serve one another as faithful stewards of the many-colored tapestry of God’s grace.

1 Peter 4:10

We love because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6
At Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, we know the good news of Jesus through the teaching of scriptures and Catholic traditions. We love by demonstrating our living faith and respecting the dignity of all human beings. We serve by being stewards of God’s creation through service to our school, our parishes and our communities.
St. Jude Catholic School shines to glorify God. The success of St. Jude Catholic School is because of the strong parish foundation, exceptional faculty, excellent curriculum and families who share their children along with their own time and talents.

Anchored in love, St. Mary’s Catholic School exists to promote Gospel values, academic excellence and service to others. Our positive, supportive learning environment promotes imagination, exploration, personal growth and achievement.
As a ministry of our Catholic community, St. Dominic Catholic School believes in the blessings of faith through Jesus Christ; inspires spiritual, intellectual, social and physical growth; and celebrates God’s gracious gifts.

For almost 65 years, Sacred Heart Cathedral School has developed students to their fullest potential in mind, body and soul. The school offers an innovative and challenging curriculum in a diverse, welcoming and Christ-centered Catholic environment. In the classroom, in the arts, and on the fields and courts, Sacred Heart educates the whole child and charts them on a life of service.
Saint Joseph School, in cooperation with parents and parish communities, teaches and nurtures the Catholic faith. The school is dedicated to academic excellence through a curriculum that promotes the growth of the whole child and service to others – a place where we are committed to: “Holiness as a way of life.”

St. John Neumann Catholic School’s mission is to serve God with loving hearts, joyfully embrace our Catholic faith and to nurture individual and academic excellence for students in preschool through grade eight.
St. Mary’s School is where the journey matters! Our community is united to provide a Catholic education in a Christ-centered environment, dedicated to academic excellence and promoting truth and charity in service to God and others.

Core Values

Our schools bring out the best in others through leadership and guidance in a collaborative, community-based environment. The love of God helps the growth of leadership.

Leadership

Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

1 Timothy 4:12
Knoxville Catholic High School has been inspiring young people through the ministry of Christ since 1932. Today, the campus in the heart of West Knoxville features best-in-class facilities, a distinguished faculty and a steadfast commitment to Catholic education. KCHS graduates are not just ready for college, they are equipped to meet real-world challenges and forge new paths. Go Irish!
As the area’s only Catholic High School and first independent school, Notre Dame is a welcoming, inclusive high school committed to exceptional education rooted in Christian values reaching back nearly 150 years. Equally as important as excelling in academics, NDHS fosters a prayerful and comprehensive value-based educational program that helps direct young adults of all faiths on the right path.

**Excellence**

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.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

*Philippians 4:8*
We pursue academic excellence with the goal of nurturing and supporting the God-given talents of every child to the fullest.

We serve a diverse population across a spectrum of learning abilities. From those learning the English language, to students with special learning and physical needs, we have the resources and ability to serve all students.

Our academic focus is STREAM: science, technology, religion, English/engineering, arts and math. This produces well-rounded students who are prepared for continuing education across a wide range of fields.

Our guidance programs offer support that includes individual counseling, classroom instruction and small groups. Specialized personnel called interventionists also are available to work with students with different needs.

We focus on the whole child and revel in opening instruction and development beyond traditional academics to include creative and athletic endeavors as well.

### Academic Fast Facts

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>High school graduation rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>99%</td>
<td>Eighth-graders attend first choice high school</td>
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<td>Teacher-to-student ratio</td>
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<td>High school students earning credit through advanced placement or dual enrollment</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Athletic sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Number of academic programs offered</td>
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### CORE VALUES

**Dignity of Individuals**

Our schools believe that God created each person with dignity and love. Because the Catholic school mission is so clear: Teach children the truth; develop the whole child spiritually, emotionally, physically, socially and cognitively; and cultivate an environment of love, respect and personal self-discipline; the result is a place where students can thrive.

*Let all that you do be done in love.*

1 Corinthians 16:14
Accreditation

All 10 schools in our system are accredited by the State of Tennessee and accredited by COGNIA, a non-profit, non-governmental organization that accredits primary and secondary schools throughout the United States and internationally.

Financial Support

$5.2 million in annual financial support from the Diocese of Knoxville is distributed among the schools in our system. Each year, the individual schools provide an additional $2 million in financial awards, with that amount expected to increase annually.

We believe families who want to provide a Catholic education to their children should have the opportunity, so together we will find a way. No child is turned away for inability to pay. We offer tuition assistance through a financial application process.

Service

Service is an integral part of our schools – so important that it is one of our core values. We serve God by serving others and supporting our communities.

Every school participates in volunteer activities, drives, fundraisers and more. This extension of our schools and faith results in tens of thousands of service hours each year benefiting dozens of nonprofits.

Honor & Integrity

Our schools are open, honest and trustworthy. We seek to be fair and loyal to our calling, to those we serve and to those who serve us. We seek to overlook the faults of others and continue to strive to love them as our Lord has asked.

Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things.

Hebrews 13:18
We welcome any questions and to discuss how we can serve you and your family through Catholic education. Please reach out by calling 865-584-3307.

We want to be a part of your family’s educational journey.